Stephanie Dixon is our hero
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Teachers' strike disrupts classes at UVic
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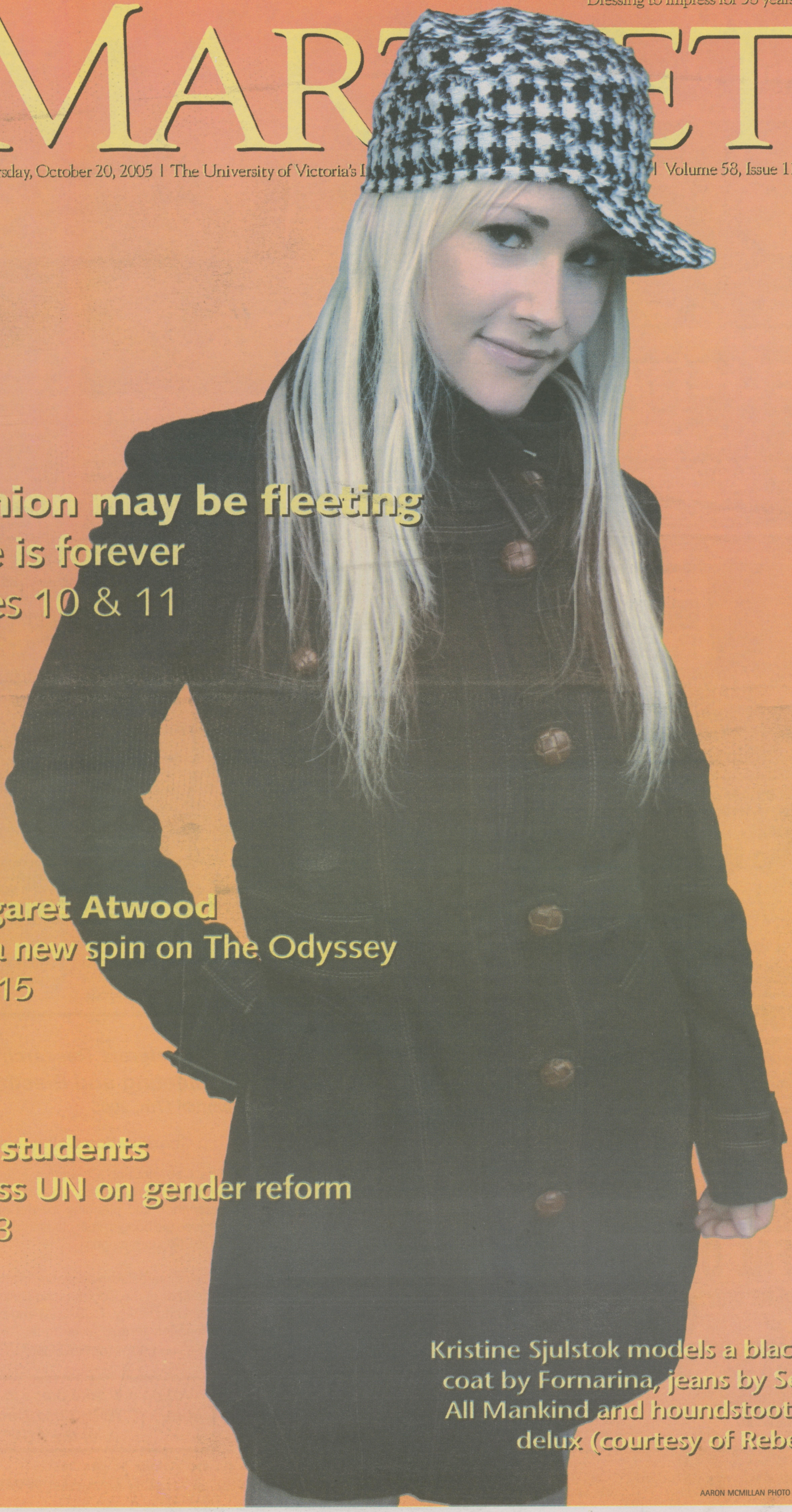
Thursday, October 20, 2005 | The University of Victoria's I | Volume 58, Issue 11



Fashion may be fleeting
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Kristine Sjulstok models a black trench coat by Fornarina, jeans by Seven For All Mankind and houndstooth hat by delux (courtesy of Rebel Rebel).

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO | GRAHAM STARK ILLUSTRATION

Prof awarded for creating technologies for people with disabilities

NICOLE SIEMENS PHOTO

Dr. Nigel Livingston, left, develops unique technologies in his UVic office that make life easier for people with disabilities.

by Patrick Szpak

"I've always liked to tinker," said biology professor Dr. Nigel Livingston, explaining how he ended up inventing gadgets to helping people with disabilities.

Livingston, whose daughter has a disability, also mentioned a boy who was injured in a car accident, and recalled being struck by how little was available to help the child.

Thanks to the efforts of Livingston and the University of Victoria's Assistive Technology Team (UVATT), some people with disabilities have more resources available to them.

Since September 1999, UVATT has been inventing and engineering things that make life a bit easier for people with disabilities.

And they are good at it—Livingston and his team were honoured on Oct. 17 as the first recipients for the inaugural Lieutenant Governor's Technology and Innovation Award from the BC Innovation Council.

The award recognizes the development of highly innovative, new technology based on applied research that has a positive impact on the province.

UVATT's inventions are varied and ingenious. Past devices include tricycles for children with dwarfism and umbrella clamps for people in wheelchairs. Current projects include mechanical legs and devices that can be activated by the eye or tongue.

"We'll only take on projects after a request," said Livingston. "We don't make something and try and find the user." Recipients pay nothing for what UVATT makes.

Unfortunately, the non-profit UVATT must battle to bring in enough money through donations and public funding to continue its research and development.

"Funding is a big issue and we are always looking to raise funds to support the program. The market is very small. You just don't get business making these kinds of devices," said Livingston.

In order to bring in more funds for their projects, UVATT created a spin-off company, Inspired Devices, which "searches for commercial potential in each developed UVATT technology, while ensuring the appropriate delivery of products to end-users."

The "commercial potential," said Livingston, would come from modifying certain UVATT technologies for use in a wider market.

Personal digital assistants (PDAs) for the elderly, control devices for video games, and new computer interfaces to navigate through operating systems are examples of potential crossover technologies that could make money, explained Livingston, allowing UVATT to fund its less-profitable devices and become self-sufficient.

"The dream would be a philanthropist setting up an endowment, but that's unlikely," said Livingston, who is aware of the potential ethical dilemmas that could arise when marketing his devices to large companies and government organizations.

Some projects that could benefit people with disabilities, like eye activated systems and exoskeletons, have potential military applications, and a handful of similar projects have been funded by the Pentagon in the U.S.

"I hope I never have to confront that issue. It's not black and white," said Livingston. "We have to be sensitive to a range of feelings."

Livingston is modest about being singled out as the lone individual recipient of the award.

"UVATT is a team and it kind of makes me uncomfortable because our success has been a team effort," he said. "We've had close to 1,000 people work in UVATT in the six or seven years we've been at UVic. I feel so privileged and fortunate to be part of UVATT and work with such incredible people—students, faculty, staff, community volunteers and, most especially, those people with special needs and their caregivers."

Many students have worked and volunteered with UVATT. "We've had some incredible students. Their dedication and their skill is just amazing."

Livingston said most are in engineering, but that he has had students from music, biology, physical education and psychology.

"They get a greater awareness of disability issues," he said, "and as they go out in the community they become good advocates for disability issues. That cannot be a bad thing."

Livingston said most UVic students who work or volunteer with UVATT leave with a good feeling. "They feel they've made a difference in someone's life, and that's a pretty nice thing to do."

For more information, or to volunteer, visit http://web.uvic.ca/uvatt.

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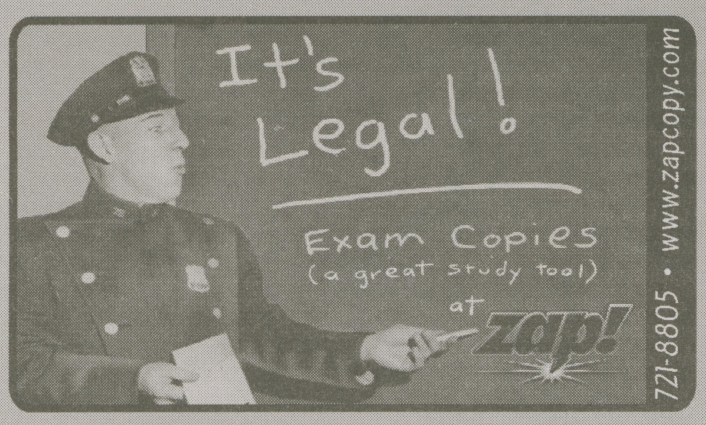

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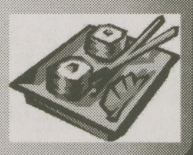

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November 17th, 2005

AGM Agenda:
- Appointment of Meeting Chair
- Approval of Minutes of last AGM
- Approval of VIPIRG Financial Statements
- Review of the year's activities at VIPIRG
- Introductions and questions of candidates
- Additional Business
- Appreciations
- Close

Coordinating Collective Elections

The Coordinating Collective is a group of VIPIRG members who are responsible for financial management, personnel, and planning for the organization. They oversee the budget, staff our hiring committees, and work on VIPIRG campaigns.

If you're interested in becoming involved with VIPIRG as a member of the Coordinating Collective, come by our offices and library (SUB b120 and b122) and pick up a nomination form. Forms must be received back at VIPIRG by 4:30 pm on November 10, 2005, to be eligible.

AGM will be at 7 pm in the UVic Graduate Centre, Room 108

Voting will take place in the VIPIRG library (SUB b122), 10 am - 4 pm, and at the AGM

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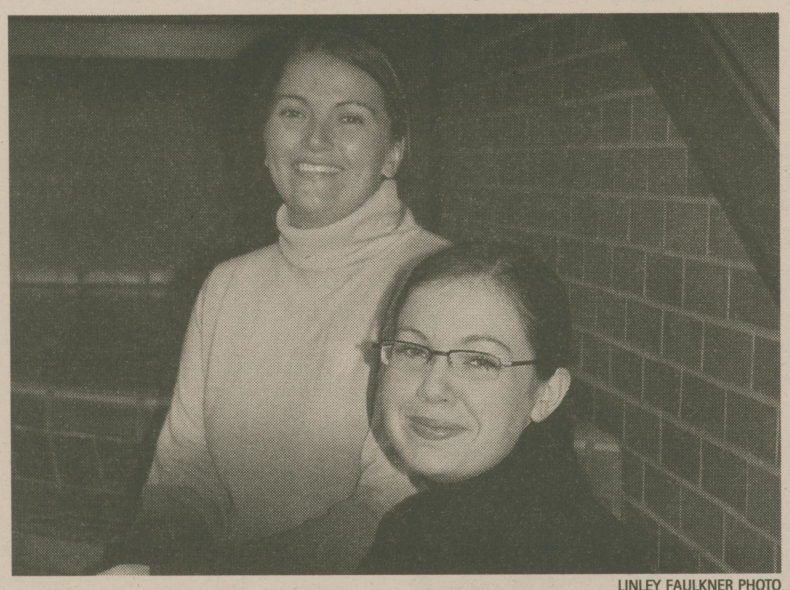
UVic law students to address UN in New York

by Meghan Planchon



LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Jennifer Bond (left) and Laurel Sherret earned a trip to UN headquarters with a paper on gender reform in international policy.

Two University of Victoria law students are on their way to the United Nations' (UN) headquarters in New York City to support the role of women peace-builders in countries affected by violent conflict.

Jennifer Bond and Laurel Sherret, along with eight women travelling from conflict zones, will deliver a presentation at UN headquarters between Oct. 24 and 29.

The October Advocacy Program the women are set to take part in marks the fifth anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the first binding international law that specifically addresses the impact of war on women. It mandates an "urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations."

Five years after its passage, gender perspectives are far from mainstream in UN policy. This became apparent to Sherret and Bond during their time as interns this past summer for the International Women's Rights Project (IWRP), a non-governmental organization based at UVic.

During their internships, the pair analyzed a principle adopted by the UN in 2005 called *The Responsibility to Protect* (*R2P*). The principle declares that the international community has the responsibility to protect populations from ethnic cleansing, genocide and crimes against humanity, when the nation affected by such crimes is unable to do so.

The initiative emerged from the work of a commission created by the Canadian government called the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS). *R2P* outlines three distinct responsibilities for the international community of states: The responsibility to prevent, the responsibility to react, and the responsibility to rebuild.

Bond and Sherret found that in the 108-page *R2P* report, the only reference made to women was an acknowledgement of the systematic rape that occurs in areas of violent conflict.

Canadian UN Ambassador Allan Rock shared the concern of IWRP, says Marilou McPhedran, co-director of IWRP. McPhedran offered to do a background strategy paper "engendering" *R2P* in time for the UN reform summit this year.

"[Rock] agreed that, if he liked what we came up with, he'd seriously consider using the arguments," said McPhedran. "With some serendipity and supportive donors, [Jennifer] and Laurel did a phenomenal job with the research and we delivered the strategy paper to the ambassador."

McPhedran added, "It helps to have an ambassador to the UN with a strong sense of social justice, who really cares about women's equality."

In the end, the ambassador was so pleased with the work of Bond and Sherret the pair earned a trip to UN headquarters to present the ideas in their paper in person. Next week they will urge the UN to better apply its principles involving women and security.

While the international community has heralded the adoption of *R2P*, Bond and Sherret say the resolution cannot be justly considered an advance for human security until it has an integrated gender perspective.

The pair's work moves through each point of the *R2P* document, integrating gender-based analysis into its findings. They argue that women are disproportionately affected in areas of violent conflict. Taking into consideration the specific types of participation, strengths and vulnerabilities of women are essential to the success of *R2P*, they argue.

"A gender-based analysis would recognize that a displaced 'civilian' population will likely be predominantly women and children," explained Sherret. "Current statistics say about 80 per cent of those displaced are women and children."

Sherret adds that with more knowledge, planning how to provide basic services is simplified. "If there will be more women present, for instance, we need to ensure that there are adequate provisions for reproductive health services in the emergency health services at displaced persons or refugee camps."

Sherret and Bond highlight many cases in daily life not taken into consideration in policy-making that advocates intervention.

Women must be involved at high levels of policy-making, the pair said.

"Grassroots, ground level work is essential. We must understand daily life patterns," said Bond. "At this level, women are key actors. Women should be involved in the training and organization of programs."

Sherret and Bond are hopeful the "gender blindness" common to high-level policy-making can be remedied. They point to the importance of the involvement of women at both grassroots and high levels of government, and believe that the upcoming advocacy program, which will bring together women from conflict zones and women involved in policy work, is a step in the right direction.

They are also hopeful that the recommendations of their paper, which will be published in the UN journal after the completion of the advocacy program, will be integrated into the *R2P* document.

"This work is all about incremental changes. I'm hopeful that we'll see some concrete improvements to the *R2P*," said McPhedran. "And if that happens, we can track it back to UVic."

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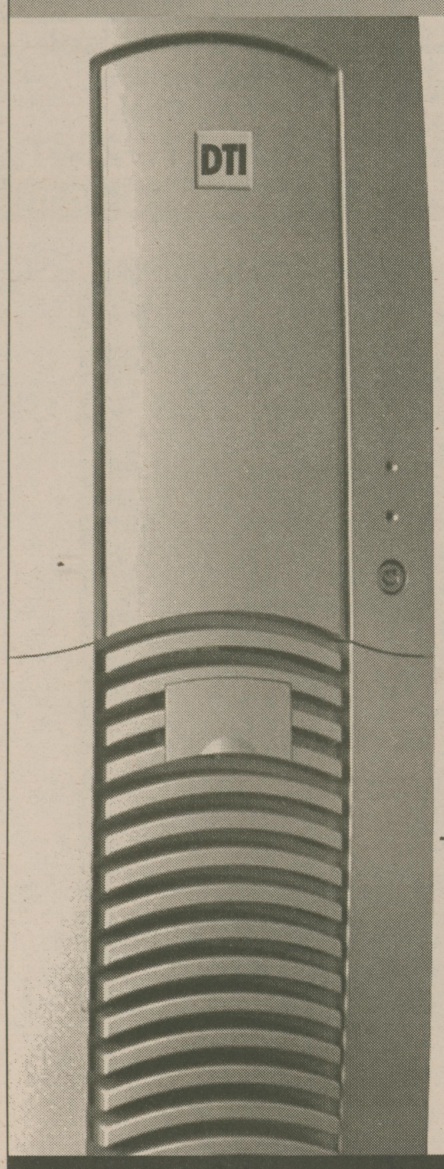

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Unions, supporters tell government to 'suck it up'

Protestors marched through the streets of Victoria Oct. 17 in support of B.C. teachers

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

Signs at an Oct. 17 protest in front of the legislature questioned the validity of Bill 12, a bill passed by parliament on Oct. 7 that imposes an eight-month contract extention on B.C. teachers.

by Bryna Hallam

Chants of "General strike!" and "Suck it up!" echoed through the streets of Victoria, B.C. Oct. 17 as between 10,000 and 20,000 people gathered to protest the provincial government's treatment of teachers.

Thousands of unionized workers walked off the job shutting down much of the city.

Transit and municipal offices were closed for most of the day, as were libraries, liquor stores and rec centres.

About half the classes at Camosun College and the University of Victoria were cancelled due to pickets around the campuses.

The rally was organized by the B.C. Federation of Labour, and attracted members of local unions, teachers and their supporters.

The demonstration fell on the sixth day of a province-wide illegal strike by 38,000 B.C. teachers. 600,000 students are out of school as a result.

Teachers are on strike in opposition to Bill 12, which legislated a contract extension until June 30, 2006 that does not provide a wage increase or address class sizes.

"Recently, a person wrote that there is a big difference between breaking the law and having a law created to break you," Jinny Sims, B.C. Teachers' Federation president, told the crowd. "We will not be broken."

The government refuses to negotiate with teachers while they are breaking the law.

"The law is the very foundation of a civil society," Premier Gordon Campbell said.

"No elected official can condone or in any way support any group acting in contempt of the courts or in contempt of the laws that are democratically passed by a democratically elected legislature."

According to Campbell, the government is ready to talk class sizes, class composition and wages—if the union drops its picket lines.

The Supreme Court froze the union's assets last week to keep them from funding the strike.

As a result, the teachers are no longer receiving their $50 a day strike pay.

Representatives from teachers' federations across Canada, including the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), joined the demonstration.

"The Canadian Teachers' Federation will not stand idly by and allow one of its member organizations be attacked by a wrong-headed government," said CTF president Winston Carter. "We believe in the right to a free and open collective bargaining process.

B.C. Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair warned that protests could escalate unless the government bargained a solution with teachers.

Similar protests were scheduled for other areas of the province throughout the week.

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Tension mounts between teachers and government

by Kurt Heinrich

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

NDP leader Carole James waves to crowds gathered at the legislature to support teachers on Oct. 17.

In front of the chain-link fences of Oak Bay High School, white placards have replaced the usual clusters of teens.

Groups of teachers sporting signs proclaiming, "Taking a Stand for Public Education," are grouped in pickets preventing any entry into their school in what has been deemed an illegal job action by the B.C. Supreme Court.

Begun on Oct. 7, the strike is now into its second full week with few indications of a conclusion in sight. As the conflict becomes ever more polarized and threatens to spread to other B.C. unions, a resolution enabling both sides to reach an acceptable agreement and the teachers to return to their jobs seems increasingly unlikely.

For the government, the issue revolves around the legal supremacy of Bill 12, a law forced through by the Liberal majority government, which imposed an extension of the teachers' current contract until next June. In an Oct. 13 ruling, B.C. Supreme Court Judge Nancy Brown ruled that the B.C. Teachers' Federation's (BCTF) defiance of the new legislation, and therefore of the B.C. Labour Relations Code, is an illegal breach of the law.

"We will not be entering into discussions with the BCTF while they remain in contempt," said Labour Minister Mike de Jong. "It would be an affront to the courts and the courts' authority for anyone, including government, to take any action that would attach pre-conditions on the court's ruling."

For the BCTF, the strike is rooted in both general and specific grievances, which have been incubating over the past decade.

In general, many teachers, along with other union members, see their labour action as a last stand against a government set on removing all collective bargaining—and, hence, union—power in the province. This has been done legally through the categorization of teaching as an "essential service" by the provincial government, a law that is unique to B.C.

Through this law, the government has been able to impose contracts on all unions with workers deemed essential to the province. B.C. teachers have faced four such government contract impositions since 1993, and in the past two years were only brought to the bargaining table after their contract had been set in stone by the B.C. Board of Education.

B.C. NDP leader Carol James highlighted this point in a recent press release.

"Rather than working with teachers to find solutions for the benefit of our children, Gordon Campbell is treating teachers as if they don't matter," she said. However, James has also voiced her opinion that no one should be breaking the law.

Equally critical for many teachers is the fear that the government's aggressive tactics and the accompanying labour struggles have slowly been whittling away their position as role models in society.

"We find it ironic that our status as role models in the community is being questioned by a government led by a convicted drunk driver," said Vanessa Quinn, an English and Social Studies teacher at Oak Bay High School, from her school's picket line Oct. 12.

These broad issues of moral integrity and the rights of organized labour have meshed together with other concerns over the general state of public education in B.C.

Teachers are demanding a salary increase of 15 per cent over three years, and an improvement to working and learning conditions, such as the composition and size of classes.

While some teachers say that wage demands are used more as a bargaining chip, others say an increase in pay is necessary to attract new and enthusiastic teachers to replace aging instructors, whose average age is 55 and who will soon be eligible for retirement.

"Many teachers see [the strike] as a struggle for the next generation of teachers," said David Blades, UVic's Associate Dean of Teacher Education.

"In this province teaching is not a valued profession," said Judy Reed, a language teacher at Lambrick Park High School. "It must change because nowadays many young people do not want to go into teaching."

The most pressing issue of the strike for many teachers is the improvement of composition and size of classes, which sometimes see upwards of 45 students. These enormous university-size classes are often also fundamentally shortchanged on money for supplies and texts.

"The strike was bound to happen because the government has been cutting back so much," said Kent Martin, a Grade 11 student who was out on the Oak Bay High picket line Oct. 12 to support his teachers.

According to Martin, his school has had difficulty providing its students with enough study material. This situation has often forced them to share textbooks and some students have even been prohibited from taking their English or Socials texts home to do their homework.

Teachers also point to decreases in services for special needs students due to inadequate government funding.

Instead of receiving independent assistance, many special needs pupils have instead been integrated into the general school population without adequate aid.

Reed was forced to deal with precisely this problem in some of her classes.

In a Grade 10 English class of 35 students, she had to manage five teens lacking rudimentary English skills, and seven others with severe learning disabilities including autism, Turrets syndrome, and Down syndrome.

"My job has become increasingly difficult, so often rather than teaching, I'm learning survival strategies," said Reed. Karen Leahy-Trill, a sign language interpreter at Oak Bay High School and a CUPE member who refused to cross the teachers' lines empathized, saying, "There needs to be more support for students with disabilities in the classroom."

B.C.'s Supreme Court has ruled that while the BCTF's assets will be frozen and the strike deemed illegal, it will not, at the moment, be fined the hundreds of thousands of dollars many were expecting. However, according to John Kilcoyne, a UVic professor specializing in labour and contract law, "for sure, when this will end, there will be fines imposed on the BCTF."

Another possibility is the jailing of the BCTF's union leaders, Kilcoyne said, but he adds the option is unappealing to the BC Liberals because of the martyr status it would grant the inductees. Kilcoyne suggests perhaps a more likely outcome is the eventual mediation of the incident by the B.C. Federation of Labour.

Regardless of the end result, the law professor said, it is clear that this event will have a lasting effect not only on the education system of B.C., but also on how future labour relations will proceed across Canada.

"The strike is extremely important," he said. "[It has] considerable political significance on how this government and other governments will deal with employees and with teachers in particular."

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Anti-communist sentiments landed Chinese lawyer in an asylum

by Matthew Gauk

Chinese lawyer Guo Guoting spent 21 days of his youth in a mental hospital for criticizing the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), an experience that nearly destroyed his ability to think for himself.

As soon as he got out, Guo, went back to school. He studied and read and worked constantly to prove that his thoughts were right—that they were valid.

"My personal history can more vividly say what the human rights situation in China is, the true situation," said Guo, during an Oct. 11 lecture at UVic.

A senior Chinese maritime lawyer turned human rights lawyer who now lives in Canada, Guo spoke of his own life as a microcosm of human rights and the rule of law in China today. In his homeland, Guo came from a so-called "black family."

"In China, if someone came from this family they cannot get a job. They cannot get an education," explained Guo. "Only after Chairman Mao passed away could I get a chance to take the examination and go into university."

It was 1980 when Guo was accepted to university—a rare opportunity, in his family. In 1984, Guo's thinking changed and he criticized the CCP, Marxism, and Maoist thought. Without any argument, he was forced into a mental hospital.

"I was confused during that time, I thought. I only talked about my mind, my thoughts," recalls Guo. He had questioned the basis of the law. He thought it should be about justice, fairness, and complementing natural law, but saw the law being used instead to satisfy the will of the Party and the ruling class.

Over the next 20 years, Guo spent much of his free time reading and searching for justification for his ideology. He practiced law, focusing on international trade, international maritime law, and marina insurance. He was at the top of his field, and was even named the top maritime lawyer in China in 2002 by the international law guide *Legal 500*.

"Finally, I think the wisdom is coming back, the thought is coming back, the energy is coming back. And of course, I think, I will stand up again," he said.

Guo became interested in human rights law. He knew he would earn little or nothing. He knew he would face heavy political, economic, and mental pressures, but Guo was going to give it all up for a few university students.

"Many people don't understand. As a maritime lawyer, you can live a very easy, a very comfortable life. But what actually turned me was the Internet," he said.

Guo stumbled upon some overseas news sites in 2003 and read about a number of young university students arrested in China for writing articles criticizing the Communist Party and the Chinese political and legal systems. Guo looked up what the students wrote to find out more about their ideas.

"Their ideas are basically the same as mine were," he said.

While China's constitutional law states that Chinese citizens are entitled to basic human rights, the right to free speech and a free press, this is not necessarily the case in reality.

"They have no such rights at all," said Guo. "In this way I think it is time for me to do something to help the country, to help China, to set up the true rule of law and human rights. So I offer myself as a defense lawyer."

Guo decided to defend a number of university students and other "political criminals," including members of the controversial religious group Falun Gong.

"Without such freedoms, China is not a human being country. It's only an animal country, maybe it's a slavery country," said Guo of the strong beliefs that compelled him to take action.

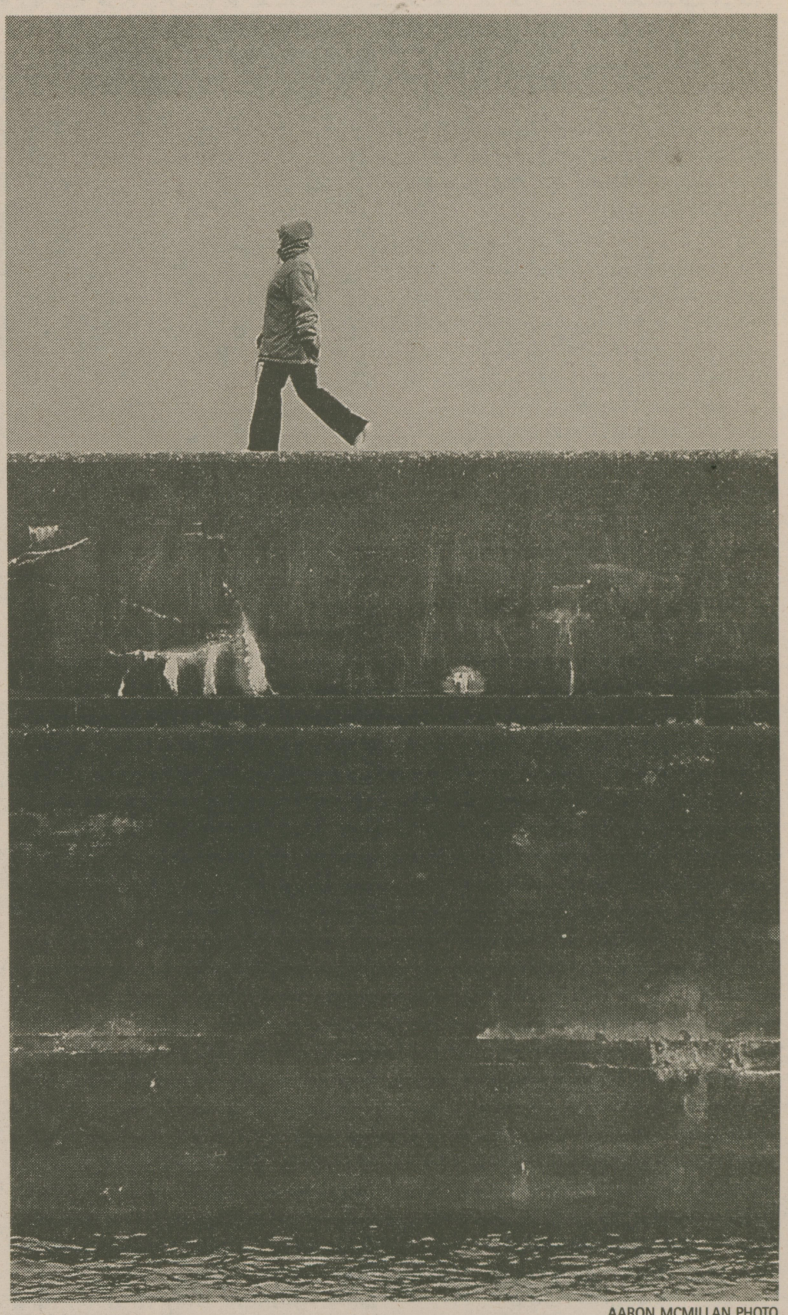
Guo's most recent case was defending Chinese journalist Shi Tao, who was charged with "divulging state secrets abroad" earlier this year. Shortly before the case began, Guo's office was searched and closed, his family was searched, and his computer and personal journal confiscated. He was charged with disturbing the social order and put under house arrest for two-and-a-half months before being driven out of the country.

"My conclusion is that I'm very disappointed. In China, there are no human rights," he said. "If anyone dares to openly criticize the Communist Party or government policy, they are in danger of losing their job or being put into prison."

Guo also expressed his astonishment that he, a senior international lawyer and a law professor at three universities, could not protect his own human rights.

The Canadian government offered to allow him into the country after he was exiled.

Ambling towards another ghastly grey winter



AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

Bundled against the wind, a woman walks along the Ogden Point breakwater on a cold autumn day.

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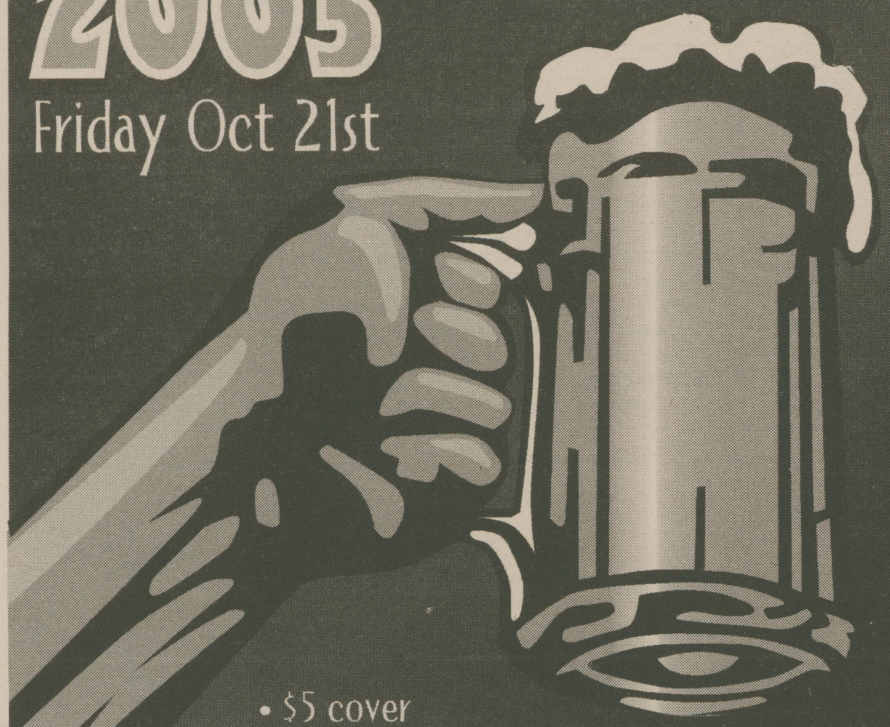

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Vertigo is calling all freaks this Halloween weekend for the second installment of the Monster Ball with Victoria favourites, Dj Trever and Kenzie Clarke. Trever's insane scratching and massive selection of disco, rap, house, funk, and breaks will be sure to rock the dancefloor and frighten the competition. Kenzie Clarke is half of Bitchin Beats and plays just about everything from 80's and Rock to Hip Hop, House and Funk. Opening the night will be Dj Primitive with a scary selection of Funk, Breaks, and Hip Hop.

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PROVIDED PHOTO

An estimated 70 per cent of wetlands on B.C.'s lower mainland have been lost to development.

UVic company maps wetlands

by Kim Armstrong

A new UVic spin-off company run through the university's geography department is involved in an ambitious scheme to map Canada's wetlands system using remote-sensing technology.

Dr. Olaf Niemann, who founded the B.C. Centre for Applied Remote Sensing, Modeling and Simulation (CARMS), calls the company "a vehicle to try to bring university researchers in the field in contact with industry and government."

CARMS is currently contributing to the Canadian Wetlands Inventory, an Environment Canada project. The goal of the inventory is to map all of the wetlands in Canada, classify them according to size, and characterize them as either organic (containing mainly plant materials) or inorganic (containing mainly mineral soils).

CARMS' involvement in the wetlands inventory began when the provincial government requested the company's aid in the detection of sea grass beds along B.C.'s coasts. Sea grass beds, such as eelgrass, turtle grass and widgeon grass, are known as environmental indicators.

As components of sensitive ecosystems, the beds are among the first to react to environmental changes, and can be used to detect environmental problems in their early stages.

The research collaboration then caught the attention of the federal government.

"It turned out the feds were interested in the same issue," said Niemann. "They came on board and now [CARMS is] working with Environment Canada."

Canada is largely made up of wetlands, including the Taiga Plains, Taiga Shield, Taiga Cordillera, and Hudson Plains ecosystems. Wetlands are diverse ecosystems that house a variety of waterfowl and around 600 species of unique plants and animals.

According to Ducks Unlimited, a non-profit organization that works to protect Canada's wetlands, about 70 per cent of wetlands on the prairies and B.C.'s lower mainland have already been lost, or drained, to make way for agricultural and housing development.

Niemann said wetlands "are important because they represent critical habitat."

He added that wetlands also act as natural carbon sinks, storing significant amounts of carbon dioxide.

If, due to global warming and climate change, the organic wetlands start to dry up, they will become "tinder boxes," said Niemann, and become susceptible to wildfires. If alight, the dehydrated wetlands would release massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

"That's why we need to know where these wetlands are: So that we can monitor them over time," Niemann explained.

Among other things, CARMS is responsible for the technological end of the Canadian Wetlands Inventory initiative, using innovative technology and computer imaging to carry out the mapping pilot project.

The two types of satellites being used in the project are the U.S.-owned Landsat 7 and the Canadian-owned RADARSAT 2. Images from both satellites are then combined to form a more complete picture of the ecosystem.

Recently, CARMS acquired an aerial hyper spectral scanner, a remote sensing technology that can read light rays reflected off an area of land to create a detailed picture of the landscape and vegetation. The company uses this technology to map both wetlands and forests.

The geography department trains students to use its state-of-the-art equipment, while collaborating with various companies on research projects such as the Canadian Wetlands Inventory.

"As these projects progress, and as these students graduate, the companies that are partners [with us] will hire these students," said Niemann.

"That's the best piece of technology transfer: Not technology but students—someone who's been trained and off they go."

B.C. students recieve student loan reductions

by Bryna Hallam

Nearly 25,000 students in British Columbia have had their student loans reduced as part of a new government program.

"We're opening up access to higher learning by focusing on students who have more need of financial assistance to complete their education and realize their dreams," said Murray Coell, Minister for Advanced Education. "With this program, the deeper the need, the greater the grant."

A total of $65.5 million in provincial student loans is being forgiven, with an average debt reduction of $2,644.

Students with dependents will benefit the most—those who borrowed the maximum amount will receive either $6,584 or $7,820, depending on how many years they have had student loans.

Single students who borrowed the maximum amount will receive a $2,504 reduction.

Lisa MacLeod, B.C. chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, says the program isn't as effective of the old grant program, which was eliminated in 2004.

"It's better than nothing," she said of the new program, "but it isn't as good as the grants."

The grant program provided eligible students between 20 and 40 per cent of their loans as non-repayable grants. Unlike the debt reduction program, students knew as soon as they received their loans if they had received grants.

Under the old program, single students received an average of $3,500 as non-repayable grants, while students with dependents received $8,000. In comparison, those amounts are now $2,500 and $6,600, respectively.

And depending on the annual budget of the program and the number of students who qualify, the amount of the reductions could fluctuate.

"Students don't receive a stable amount of funding," said MacLeod. "They don't receive [the money] up front. It just isn't as effective."

The program has a budget of $67.1 million, with the provincial government contributing $30 million and the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation contributing the remaining $37.1 million.

For the 2004/05 school-year, the B.C. student loan threshold was set at $36.34 per week of study. For students with a typical 34-week course load, any B.C. student loans they have beyond $1,235.56 will be forgiven if they successfully complete their courses.

Tuition in B.C. has increased 88 per cent since 2002/03, when a six-year tuition freeze was lifted. Tuition fees rose by an average of 2.9 per cent this year, thanks to a government cap that limited tuition increases to the rate of inflation.

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Editorial

Standing up for education

Students without pocket change—don't you wish you lived in Alberta?

Thanks to a booming oil industry, things are going well in that province, and the good fortune is spilling over into all areas, including education.

Not only are students getting a tuition rebate this year—an average of $282 per student—but Dave Hancock, Alberta's Advanced Education Minister, has also put forth the suggestion that Alberta's students enjoy two years of free tuition.

Must be nice.

Recent high school graduates might not recall, but it wasn't all that long ago that the education system in B.C. looked pretty good too.

Class sizes were smaller, students with special needs got the help and attention they required, and no one had to share their textbooks.

Lower tuition made post-secondary students happy too.

Things have changed since the mid-nineties. Tuition has risen—88 per cent since 2002/03, when a six-year tuition freeze was lifted. Tuition fees rose by an average of 2.9 per cent this year, thanks to a government cap that limited tuition increases to the rate of inflation.

But as much as students love them, here are problems with tuition freezes and tuition caps: schools get less money.

And when schools get less money, you get things like increased class sizes and less resources for students.

Governments know this and they are promising some money for education and students.

The provincial government, for example, recently announced a new student loan reduction program. Eligible students with student loans will receive, on average, about $2,500.

Meanwhile, the federal government is hatching a $1.5 billion tuition-relief program. The details won't be announced until later this month, but more money for education and students can't be a bad thing.

Of course, it doesn't quite make up for the increase Paul Martin promised on June 4 of last year's election campaign. During the Great Canadian Job Interview, Martin told the student audience that his government would increase federal funding of post-secondary education to between $7 billion and $8 billion and establish separate post-secondary transfer to the provinces.

Surprise, surprise: that money hasn't materialized.

And while the federal and provincial programs are good for students, they don't address the problems facing institutions.

Any successful attempt at improving education in B.C.—and in Canada—needs to help both students and schools. Tuition increases when schools don't have the money they need. To avoid or limit tuition increases, schools need to get the money elsewhere.

This is why elementary and secondary school teachers are on strike: they feel education isn't getting the support it needs from the government.

Post-secondary education is in a similar position, only there is someone to pick up the difference: students.

It's time to convince the powers that be that education—be it elementary, secondary, or post-secondary—should be a priority in this province.

The teachers' strike is a good reminder that sometimes we have to fight for what is important to us.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Think you can do better?
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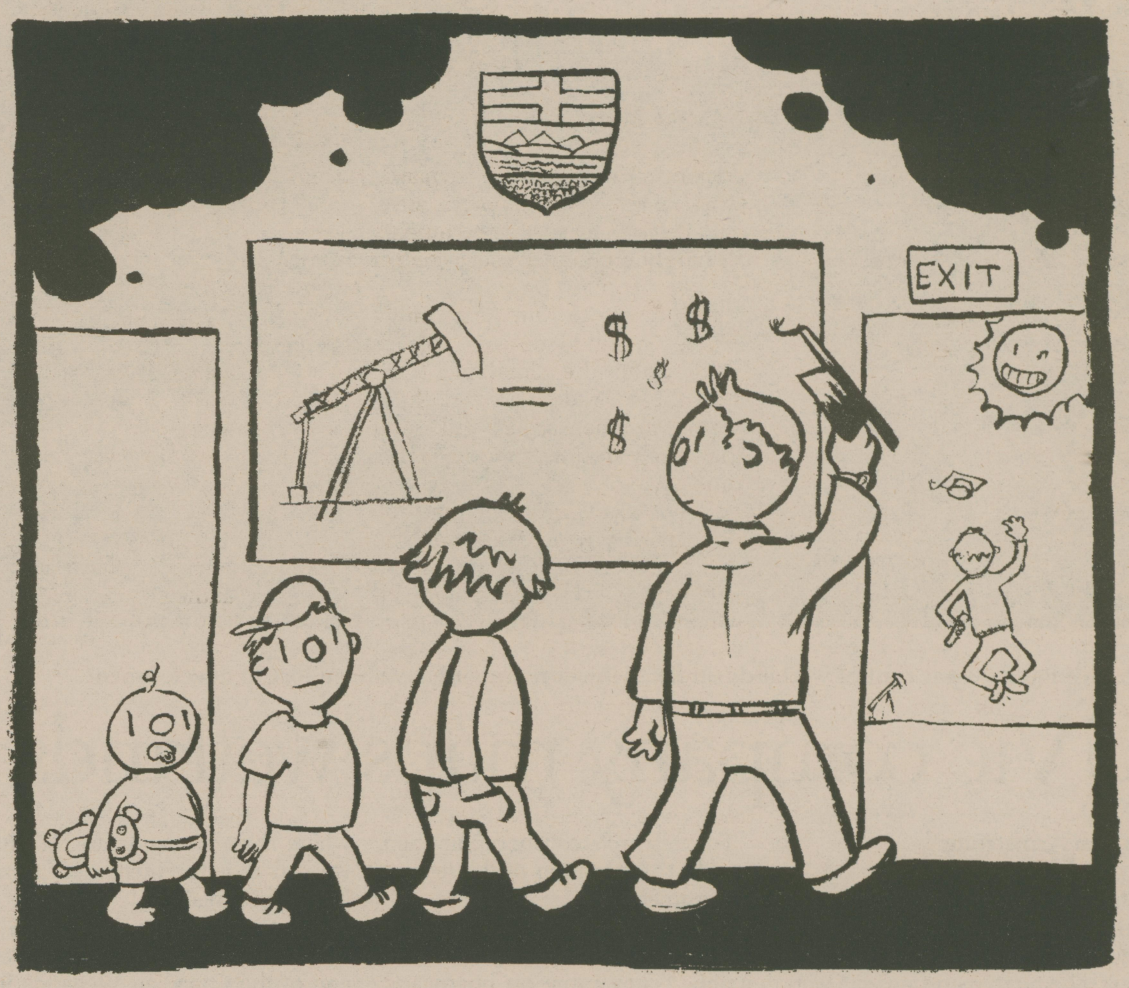
EDITORIAL CARTOON | ALBERTA, LAND OF PLENTY



ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

The strike is the only way

Dear Editor,
When teachers do not comply with the rules laid out for them, current government actions threaten them with fines and jail time.

Our government is showing that they feel out of control and unable to work as partners with the teachers. But one classroom is still open: they are demonstrating bullying to our children.

Shirley Bond's announcement on Oct. 6 on forming a new Learning Roundtable looks like a late attempt to appear as partners and in so doing, she has shown that they know they do not look this way at all. The president of the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils said she hopes a new mechanism can be found to end the animosity. Our government is actively hostile, with threats to the financial security and freedom of professional teachers. Collective bargaining did not work because the government did not participate, choosing instead to impose a contract and limit what could be discussed within bargaining. By choosing force and imposing its will they put a lie to the concept of "partners in education."

Withdrawal of services is a statement of belief and not an act of antagonism. It states that the current conditions are intolerable both within the classrooms and concerning the pretense of bargaining. It is a reminder to students and parents that teachers have been actively trying to negotiate for the benefit of students and that the government has not. It is a call to others of like mind to speak up. Don't wait for the next election. Don't wait for the government to target your organization. Act now.

-James Smith

Grammar is very useful

Dear Editor,
I belatedly saw the feature article on good grammar (Oct. 6) and found it a very fine read. I was, however, a bit startled by the comments of Robert Graham, who somehow reduces grammatical instruction to an unsavoury "power struggle" where the teacher humiliates the poor student. He then goes on to make the truly preposterous claim that studying grammar does not improve one's ability to write decent, comprehensible prose.

Although there is an undeniable nerdiness to overly strict grammarians, it's hard to argue against the fact that a good grounding in grammar informs the architecture of your prose and disciplines the expression of your ideas. Good grammar gives you the freedom to express yourself, but in a way that guarantees others will easily understand your thoughts. The real "power" that a teacher of grammar wields is the power of self-expression; and it's a power he/she is eager to share with any student.

-Robert Moyes

Charter of Rights has become absurd

by David Karp

A good Charter of Rights defends the right of citizens to life, liberty and security, and not the rights of criminals.

A story in the media last week reported on a guy in Ontario who was charged with assaulting his wife. As part of the investigation the wife asked police to search their computer where police found lewd pictures of children. The cops then got a proper search warrant, dug up more pictures, and charged the man with possession of child pornography.

However, the case was tossed out of court because the judge ruled police were on a "fishing expedition" and didn't have the right to conduct that kind of search, despite getting a warrant.

Something is wrong with this picture.

This man had sexual photos of underage children. Why should the Charter defend him? Perverts like this do not deserve rights. A good Charter of Rights would defend the children exploited by these actions, not the criminals who exploit them.

In fact, a 2002 B.C. Supreme Court ruled that it is a person's right to possess written child pornography. Robin Sharpe was found not guilty of possessing written child pornography he had penned. According to the blog of political pundit Warren Kinsella, "One collection of stories, penned by Sharpe himself, described acts of rape and torture against children as young as six years." The judge ruled these stories had "artistic merit"—they are now available to read on the Internet.

So, thanks to the Charter's freedom of expression laws, we are now allowed to distribute graphic stories about raping children. I wonder if people realize this when they praise the Charter for defending rights.

Even if we manage to convict child pornographers and send them to jail, they still get rights—thanks to the Charter. The right to vote, which is considered an enormous privilege in many countries, is extended to criminals in Canada. Murderers serving life sentences in prison can cast ballots alongside you and me. They are having their rights defended by the Charter. Yet, I think a murderer's right to vote is outweighed by the right to life, liberty and security of the person they killed.

If they wanted a vote, they should have thought about that before they pulled the trigger.

The Charter has the power to redefine our laws, for better or worse. Just look at the Sharpe case—material portraying child pornography is permissible because the laws against it deny "freedom of expression."

Should a handful of judges have the power to overrule the laws made by the 310 representatives Canadians democratically elect to our Parliament? I don't think so—but the Charter does.

It is time to take a hard look at our Charter. Yes, having rights are nice, but within reason. Common sense is absent when the Charter defends the rights of criminals over the rights of victims.

It places the letter of law, no matter how absurd, above logic. I hope we see change soon.

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Teacher's strike not a waste of time

'Schools are not daycares, and they shouldn't be treated as such'

by Mike Berry

Striking shows that the dynamic world of public institutions is alive, and defends against governments that are attempting to usurp control from its people.

In reference to Kim Armstrong's article "Would someone please think about the children?" (Oct. 13), there is definitely nothing wrong with the teacher's strike, and they surely aren't wasting anybody's time.

I agree with Armstrong that "the problems facing our education system go deeper than who is getting paid what, who is negotiating with whom and what money is going where," but until the whole system changes, it's the teachers who have to worry about their working conditions, getting paid, and who they are negotiating with.

It's also unfortunate that the children are stuck in the middle. Since numbers are being tossed around in this debate like poo in a monkey cage, I wonder how many students really care that they're missing school—could it be that there is an equal lack of accountability on the part of students and parents as there is among teachers and government?

In the *Times Colonist*, Jack Knox raised a good point concerning whether the government or the BCTF has the strongest mandate. The government has been claiming that many BCTF members didn't vote and therefore the strike isn't valid. Knox used this same logic on the actual authority of the B.C. Liberals and their power to change the law willy-nilly, trying to maintain a foothold on the rhetoric of the debate and ultimately the minds of the public.

"Although the teachers' strike was approved by 90 per cent of those casting ballots, just 60 per cent of the members actually voted," wrote Knox. "Whereas in the last election, Bond was chosen by 41 per cent of those who cast ballots in her Prince George-Omineca riding, where 62 per cent of those eligible actually voted."

Does anyone realize that the largest issue raised by the strike is the fact that parents have to find somewhere to put their children for the day and NOT that their kids aren't being educated? Schools are not daycares, and they should not be treated as such.

Perhaps parents wouldn't mind volunteering their time in the classroom to help keep things in order, as is the case in some schools in Saskatchewan. Education is definitely a privilege, not a right that belongs to everyone.

It's a privilege that should be granted to anyone so long as they show an interest in schooling and are willing to learn.

I also agree with Armstrong when she dismisses standardized tests and claims "an approach based on exceptions rather than norms is the only way to be sure we are meeting the needs of the majority of students." That sounds great, but for this we need more teachers.

If you equate thirty children per classroom, plus a few extra with disabilities, minus an educational assistant, you don't have a lot of space for dealing with the exceptional.

Smaller classroom sizes would increase the need for teachers and ultimately the types and number of programs being offered.

The situation is summed up well by the question: How much are we willing to spend on our children? This is exactly what the teacher's strike is about. Trying to get money out of the government is like sucking water out of a rock, but at least they're trying.

Health care: privatize or socialize?

Public health care no better than private

by Kim Armstrong

Publicly funded health care systems are no better at providing services than those funded by the private sector.

According to a 2001 report by the Marigold Foundation Ltd., a Calgary-based charitable organization, Canada's health care system is not number one in the world, and in fact ranks little better than that of the United States in several areas. Of the countries rated, one of the top two had a primarily publicly funded system, while the other was mostly private. None of the countries, Canada included, fully addressed the issue of equal access to care among all demographics.

If this is the case, then why is there such uproar over the partial privatization of British Columbia's health care system? If publicly funded healthcare isn't a better system, then what is the harm in looking at alternate ways of providing care?

Health care is a right. But nowhere is it written that governments have to be solely responsible for providing that right.

In fact, partial privatization could improve health care standards significantly by removing from the government the responsibility to pay for the care and treatment of those who could easily afford it, leaving more money for services for poorer citizens. Removing people from public care waiting lists into private care would also cut down on the time spent waiting for treatment by those who couldn't pay themselves.

Yes, tax dollars would still be going towards healthcare, and many taxpayers would not be directly benefiting from that money if they took advantage of private systems. However, the government is not the only body responsible for the well-being of this province. As citizens we share equal responsibility in that burden. By shouldering some of the costs, we can help make B.C. a healthier place to live.

Almost all the major religions contain some variation of the phrase, "Love thy neighbor." Isn't it time we started to abide by it?

Private health care condemns the poor

by Ford Walker

Every human being has the right to live the best life possible, and without adequate health care this is impossible.

It is astonishing to think that Canadians can care so little about their fellow citizens as to try to bar them from appropriate care just to save their own money.

Worse yet, the BC Liberals are condemning their own people by privatizing health care. After all, it is the government that is meant to serve the people, not the other way around.

Granted, public health care is very expensive for the Canadian taxpayer.

However, in countries that view health care as a freely traded commodity, the taxpayers still foot the bill for those who can't pay.

Hospitals in the States cannot turn away patients in serious condition, so those that cannot afford health care receive it at the expense of the American taxpayer.

It is amazing how many expensive health care problems could be avoided by inexpensive preventative measures, such as biannual check-ups.

If we abandon our standard health care as a right and opt for it as a privilege, then poorer people will not be able to visit the doctor as often and might be faced with illnesses that could have easily been avoided.

By far the wealthiest country, the U.S. is rated as having only the 10th best health care system in the world, according to the United Nation's human development indicators—because so many people go without treatment.

Among the best systems of care, the top seven are all socialized—Canada, once placed first, is now a modest fifth in the ranking.

Privatizing health care here would simply benefit the rich and abandon the poor.

Political correctness strangles freedom of speech

Self-appointed censors make the world safe for mediocrity

by Trey McNeil

Political correctness is strangling freedom of speech on campus.

I was struck by this disturbing trend last week. I actually noticed it before then, but it was last week when I got final proof of its existence. I was emerging from SUB-Text when a student walking in stopped and gave me a look that I can only describe as being appalled. It took me a moment to realize that it was my t-shirt that offended the person's delicate sensibilities.

The offending shirt was black and had the slogan "PRISONERS OF DEMOCRACY" printed on the front in white letters. While this may look to some like an anti-democratic phrase, it is anything but. On the back of the shirt were the words "Indian Holocaust 1492–?"—a clear statement about the treatment of First Nations people by the Canadian government.

This person did not come to such a conclusion and I found myself eye to eye with the offendee's friend, a rather large and intimidating patriot of the flag-sucking variety. I have worn the shirt backwards from that day on.

This was only my most recent run in with a new breed of humourless defenders of political correctness. They constitute a motley crew of self-appointed censors who bully and harass those with less-than-mainstream viewpoints, thus making the school safe for mediocrity.

I find enforcing a non-offensive viewpoint a little disturbing, seeing as I was under the distinct impression that institutions of post-secondary education were supposed to be arenas of free expression. Now, there might be some, I would actually wager many, of you who think that I am exaggerating and I wish to God that I were.

The sad fact is that P.C. fascism is far worse than most people realize, not only here at UVic but at colleges and universities across Canada. Here is a short list of actions that are directly attributable to this new force of bugaboos.

First, the false complaints filed against professors. I will not go into the specifics of the case to protect the innocent, but you may remember a while ago there was a professor at UVic whose contract was not renewed because of the complaint of a single student.

This complaint turned out to be a false and malicious ploy to get the professor fired.

There is also the uproar over posters depicting how AIDS can be transmitted. The main complaint is about the posters themselves, since they show statues of both heterosexual and homosexual lovemaking.

Nothing explicit is displayed, since the statues were covered in robes, but the poster offended people so much that violent homophobic graffiti was written on many of the posters.

And what about brawls started at pro-life/pro-choice rallies? I will not point fingers at either side of this volatile issue, partly to avoid a lynching, but also because it can vary from case to case. No matter what side they claim, it is the same staunch adherence to P.C. dogma that precipitates this sort of violence.

On the topic of brawls, remember when the riots broke out at Concordia University when the Jewish student union brought a former Israeli prime minister to speak?

And it wasn't a Palestinian or Jewish group that started the trouble, but individuals amongst their ranks.

This is what makes overzealous moralists so dangerous. They are problem causers who fancy themselves to be problem solvers, and God help anyone who disagrees with them. They are basically villains crouching behind a veil of goodness.

Does anyone remember the failed cause of the Moral Majority? There is a reason that being politically correct is no longer politically correct: it is redundant to sacrifice your freedom of speech to please the masses.

Stylephiles

Martlet reporter seeks the story behind the style

by Briony Smith

photos by Aaron McMillan

FIRST OFF— STYLE ISN'T FASHION.

Fashion is what is hip, hot, trendy, cool, fleeting—what is reflected in the runway stylings of couture houses and clothing lines, the feel of the season. While some people's style may be fashionable, style comes from a person's individual vibe, rather than a collective uniform.

Whether it's a plaid-clad hippie or a bleached blonde tottering in the latest wedge heels, style is about expressing yourself: it's no different than composing a song, writing a poem or directing a short film. You have something you want to share about the world or yourself, and your body is your canvas, ready for whatever clothes, jewellery, shoes, hats, bags, or anything else you might want to splash on there.

People were not born with plumage and what we wear must be our armour, our flag—a fantastic outfit tells more about a person than small talk ever could.

Style is also a collection of stories that lend texture to life, giving it the feel of satin, lamé, suede, velvet, flannel, velour, wool, shantung silk. And what is life without a dash of colour? Your favourite shirt? Your battered old runners you can't bear to throw out?

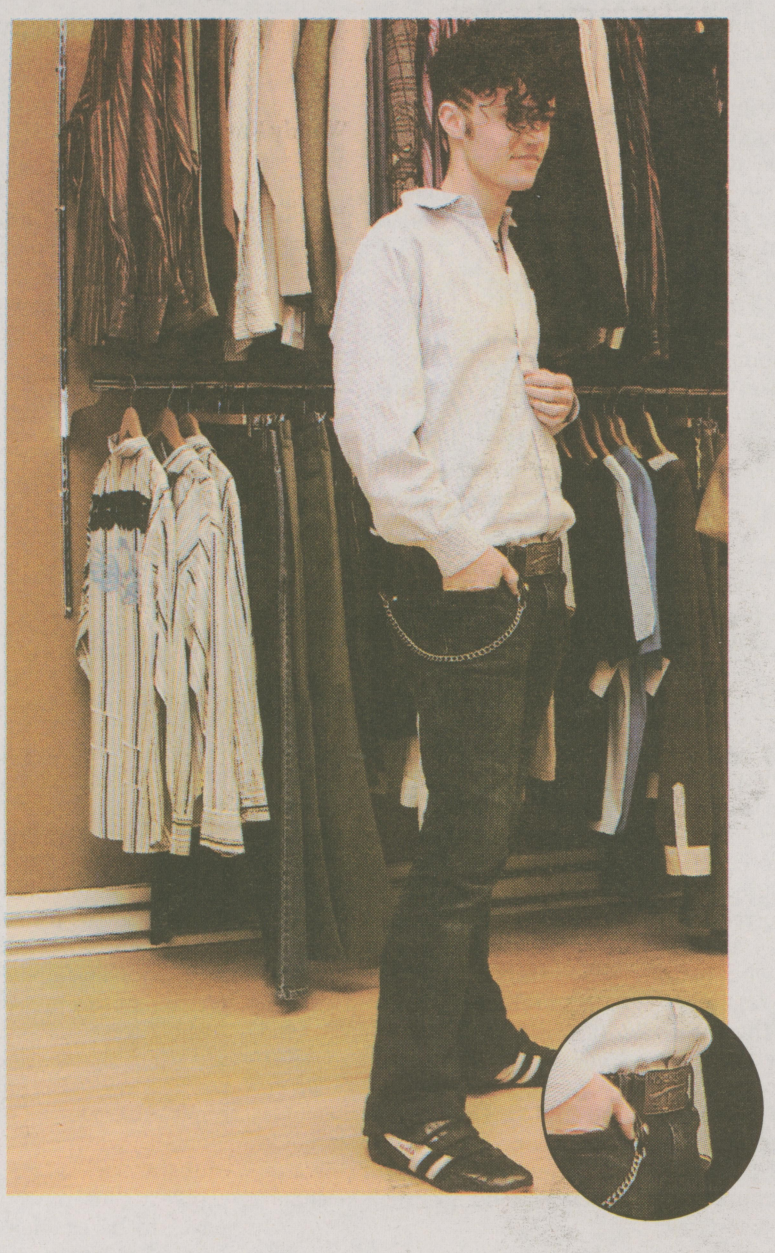
There's a reason for that: how we clothe ourselves is a fingerprint, pressed into the air around us—and it's a real pleasure to find people who use their style to press a little harder, imprinting colour, flair or effortless chic onto the world.

The *Martlet* hit the streets, scouring UVic and downtown Victoria to find well put-together specimens with something unique to their look.

Every good outfit has a treasured piece with a story to go with it, and we found plenty—from handmade necklaces to vintage belt buckles. Over a lifetime, stylish people gather great pieces, eventually covering themselves in treasures, talismans to keep close to the skin when going out to face the world.

The people featured here have taken the canvas provided to each of us and made it their own, with each impressive ensemble a work of art for passers-by to enjoy.

FASHION MAY BE FLEETING, BUT STYLE IS FOREVER.



Toban Ralston, 19
Retail Sales Associate/Coffee Shop Manager

Fashion find: Winchester belt buckle. "I got this from my dad, who wore it 30 years ago."
Gotta-have-it item: "Gold Adidas hi-tops embellished with faux fur, and a chocolate brown hooded leather jacket with a grape plaid lining."
Go-to-guy: "I love anyone who just totally owns their work, like John Galliano's designs for Christian Dior."
Tried and true tip: Just be yourself.

Esther Snippe, 20
Retail Sales Associate

Fashion find: Striped knee-socks. "I've had these since Grade 10."
Style M.O.: "You just have to find your own self."
Gotta-have-it item: Canvas bag. "It's the one thing I always come back to."
Tried and true tip: Buy clothes that fit—if you don't know if they fit or not, ask.

Jen Lord, 26
UVic Student/Retail Sales Associate

Style M.O.: "I like to be unique, and not look like part of any set style 'group,' which is why I love vintage."
Gotta-have-it item: Antique wooden bead necklace.
Fashion find: Antique diamond rings, mostly from the '20s.
Tried and true tip: Don't be afraid to try something new—when people are staring at you, it's usually a good thing. Forgo the UVic uniform of Lululemon workout pants and a hoodie!

Liz Ramsey, 19
UVic Student

Fashion find: Gap tropical-print dress. "I go shopping with my girlfriends and I pick the things that they see and go 'yuck!' But then later when they see it on, they come around."
Style M.O.: "I've just accumulated neat things over the years, then I go through them and throw something together."
Gotta-have-it item: "Boots. I just need to be wearing boots—something with support, but style, too."
Tried and true tip: If you're gonna buy something mass-produced, get a piece that no one else wants.

Kristine Sjulstok, 21
UVic Student

Style M.O.: "I'm really concerned with comfort—with a pair of fitted jeans, a v-neck shirt, 2-inch boots, and a nice winter jacket, I'm ready to go."
Gotta-have-it item: Huge over-the-hip belt. "It's got a big, worn brass buckle, with diamond-like detailing. It's really eye-catching, and can turn an outfit from casual to put-together casual."
Go-to-girls: Gwen Stefani, "for her unique vibrancy," and Jessica Simpson "because she always has the latest designers and embodies sexy class."
Tried and true tip: Don't over-accessorize—limit yourself to a couple of complementary pieces.
Outfit Oration: Dress by Religion (courtesy of Rebel Rebel). "This piece is definitely unique. It's the kind of dress you might breeze by on the rack, but if you take a chance and try it on, it really fits and it's very soft. The purple is trendy, but the detailing makes it special."

Wendy Kay, 26
Server

Fashion find: Black fall coat. "It's just a good, classic style. I love that it's mid-length, and the buckle adds fun detailing."
Go-to-girl: Gwyneth Paltrow. "She can pull off casual as well as the more formal looks effortlessly."
Gotta-have-it item: Seatbelt purse.

Amelia Smith, 19
Barista

Fashion find: Talon necklace. "I made it myself; I got the horn and the chain at the bead store, and put it together for seven bucks!"
Gotta-have-it item: "High-waisted '70's jeans."
Go-to-girl: Tara Subkoff. "I love Imitation of Christ."
Tried and true tip: Make sure you don't have any back fat spilling out of the back of your pants or skirt.

Erin Weir, 22
UVic Student/Shop Owner

Go-to-girls: Nicole Richie, Sienna Miller
Fashion find: Fly London boots. "My mom and I were walking on Main Street in Vancouver when we stumbled upon a boutique that had actually just opened for business that day! It was such a find, and fun to see a business that was just starting off since I was about to embark on a similar venture. I wore the boots as my good-luck charm the first day that my new store, Violette Veldor, opened and we got off to a fantastic start. I think it was the boots!"
Gotta-have-it items: Long black cashmere Aritzia coat.
Tried and true tip: Express yourself, but wear what looks good on your body. Pay attention to colour: you want to wear complementary colours, without matching too much.

THEATRE | NEIL LABUTE, AUTOBAHN

A crash course in prison drama

William Head Penitentiary performs Neil LaBute's ode to road rage

What: William Head on Stage (WHoS)
Where: William Head Penitentiary, at the end of Metchosin Rd.
When: Until Nov. 5
How Much: $12.50

by Sacha Narine

Why are all these actors in jail?

"I should be out by next year," says actor and WhoS theatre president Dustin Olson.

He's an inmate at William Head institution. It's a low security correctional facility about an hour out of Victoria that, for the last 24 years, has been staging productions of remarkable plays ranging from Hamlet to J.M. Synge's *Playboy of the Western World* to Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. This year, William Head on Stage (WHoS) tackles Neil LaBute's *Autobahn*, a sequence of seven vignettes that all take place in the front seat of a car.

LaBute is known for caustic humour, frank discussions of sex and abuse, and, occasionally, heavy-handed metaphors. *Autobahn* is no exception.

The play opens with a monologue. A young man sits in the passenger seat while an older woman drives. The man, played by inmate Shawn Mackinaw, reveals to the woman—his mother, played by veteran actor Deb Foley—that his rehab has been unsuccessful, that he has continued to use drugs and looks forward to the next time he can get high. Mackinaw's speech is, unfortunately, the low point of the production. He delivers his lines in a deep masculine monotone that is both emotionally flat and difficult to understand.

From there on, the production soars, combining the acting talents of UVic theatre alums Katie Hood and Karen Taylor with a remarkably talented (if intimidating) inmate cast, including the jovial Bruce Peters, the stern-looking Kevin Rushton, and the enormous and expressive Rick Slater.

Each vignette is named—the first called "Funny," the last "Autobahn"—and each one serves up some nugget of LaButian commentary. "Bench Seat" lampoons college courtship and break-ups. "Long Division" asserts that your ex shouldn't get to keep your stuff, and "Merge" plumbs the murky depths of professional conferences, where Katie Hood's character may or may not have taken part in a gangbang.

Aside from Shawn Mackinaw's flat delivery in the opening monologue, it's hard to find fault with the production itself. The acting often surpasses work seen at the Phoenix, and the use of car-themed music perfectly sets the tone for each scene.

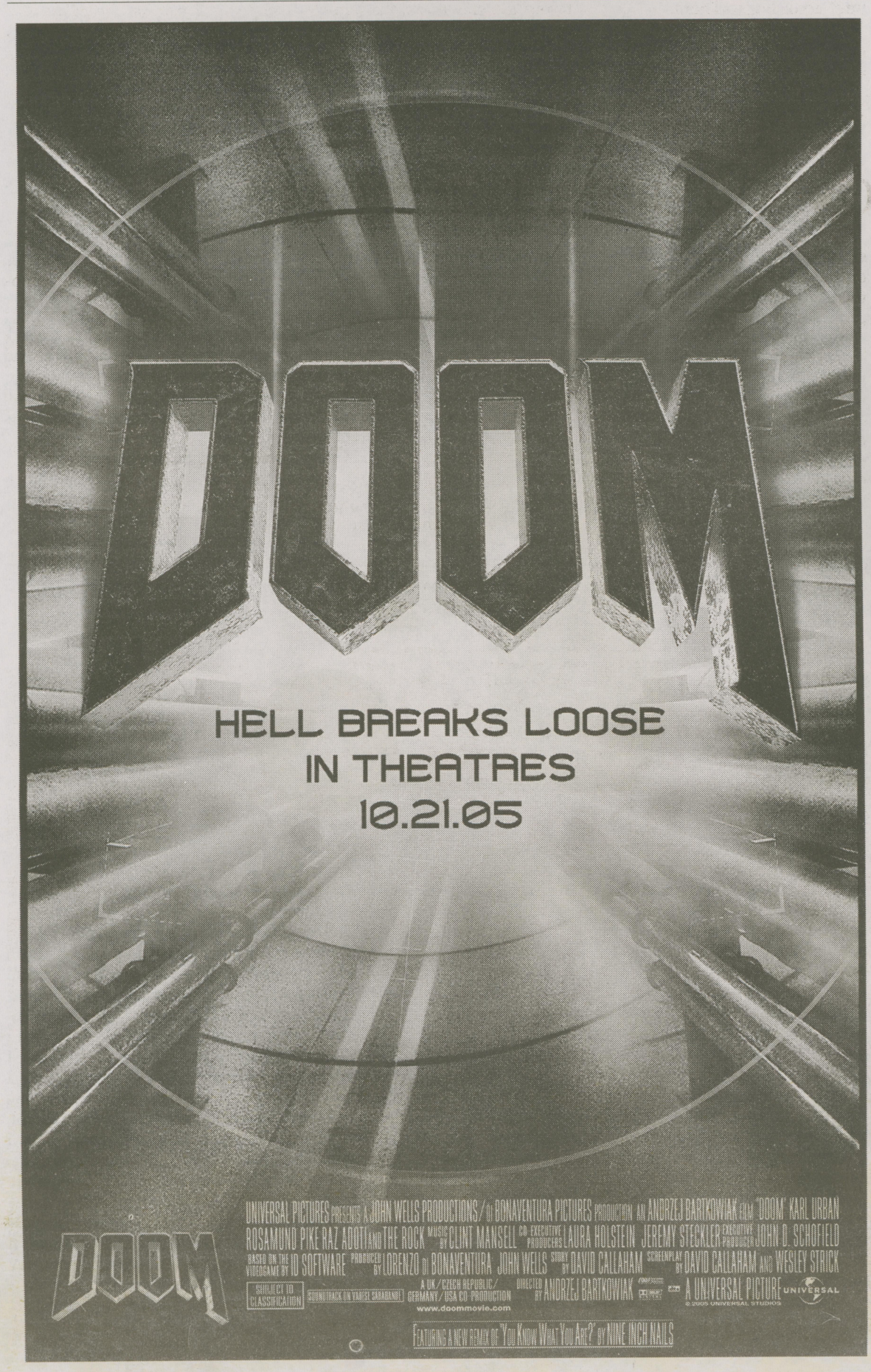
If anything, LaBute's writing is at fault. While serving up much of the caustic humour that energize his films *Your Friends and Neighbours*, *In the Company of Men*, and *The Shape of Things*, *Autobahn* as a whole puts too much emphasis on semantics—on word play and articulacy—and the final scene batters the audience with its metaphor of the *Autobahn*, that odd German highway with no speed limit.

In spite of minor qualms with the first and last vignettes, WHoS' interpretation of LaBute's latest is a minimalist pleasure in a truly incomparable atmosphere.

Plus, you get free cookies and orange drink at intermission. Pretty sweet deal if you ask me.

Tickets available at Darkhorse Books (623 Johnson St., 386-8736) and Soap Exchange (1393-A Hillside Ave., 475-0033). No admittance to anyone under 19.

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHICS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HELL BREAKS LOOSE
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10.21.05
DOOM
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SUBJECT TO CLASSIFICATION
SOUNDTRACK ON VARÈSE SARABANDE
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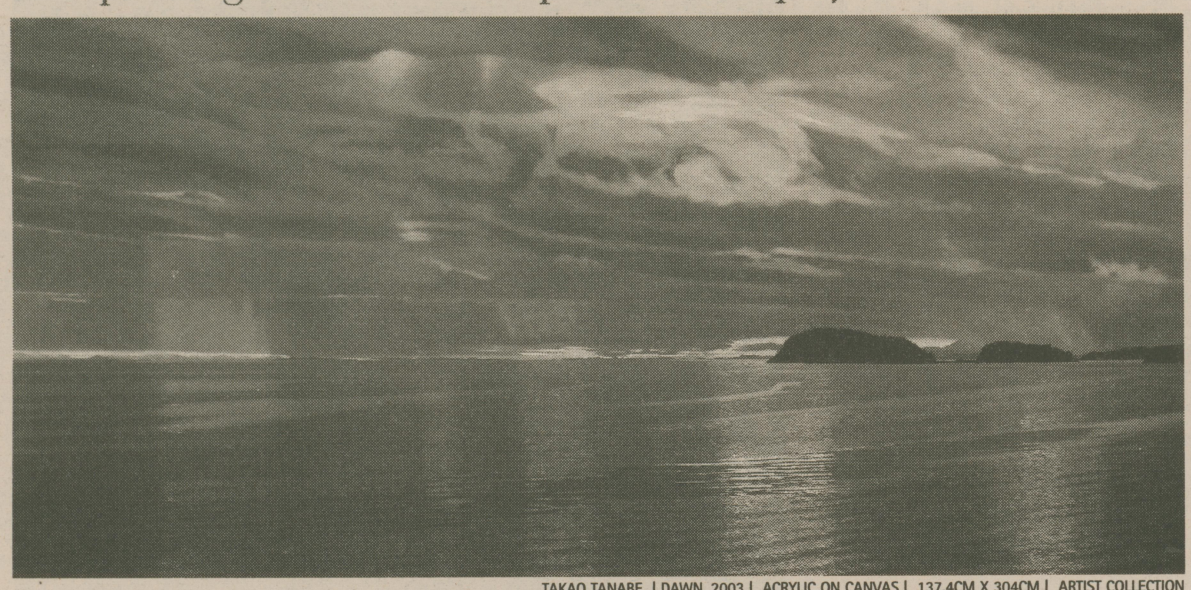
Located in The Red Lion Inn

Lost in the mists

Takao Tanabe's panoramic paintings of B.C. landscapes are on display in Victoria

What: Takao Tanabe exhibit
Where: Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 1040 Moss St.
When: Until Jan. 2, 2006
How Much: $10 for students

by Melanie Tromp



TAKAO TANABE | DAWN, 2003 | ACRYLIC ON CANVAS | 137.4CM X 304CM | ARTIST COLLECTION

Tanabe perceives the hazy ambience of his coastal work as a commentary on the nature of life: "I favour the gray mists, the rain-obscured islands and the clouds that hide the details."

Despite its somber wash of grays, Takao Tanabe's timeless painting of British Columbia's Inside Passage will lure a smile from any B.C. native. Viewing Tanabe's landscape prompts that nostalgic mix of pride and wonder for a view that resonates on the West Coast like a coveted snapshot of home.

A Vancouver Island artist and Governor-General's Award winner, Tanabe has, for decades, perfectly captured the essence of sea and sky in contemporary art. The artist/teacher kicked off the national tour of his 60-piece collection, which spans nearly six decades of artistic exploration, on Oct. 6 at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV).

The first-ever exhibit to survey Tanabe's career runs in Victoria until Jan. 2, 2006 before moving eastward across the country.

"His work is amongst the most interesting anywhere in Canada," says Ian Thom, Senior Historical Curator at the Vancouver Art Gallery and head curator of the Takao Tanabe exhibit.

As a long-time student of Tanabe's work, Thom recognizes the artist as an integral component of British Columbian culture and has published essays on his prints.

The course of Takao Tanabe's craft is unique for his generation, as he began, with rudimentary supplies and training, by contributing to the major debates about abstraction in the 1950s (whilst studying under the esteemed Reuben Tam in New York City). He then moved to hard edges in the '60s, which, after careful study in Japan, gave way to his infamous Albertan prairie paintings and the illustrious birth of his landscape work.

In reality, the landscape element of his latter work was purely incidental, born from what Thom dubs "process-issue" paintings. "Tanabe was fascinated with the formal and abstract problems of the [prairie] paintings."

The "single-go" abstract technique of simply transferring pigment onto paper gave way to his post-1970s pieces, which are "complicated in terms of surface structure," according to Thom.

Perhaps the most coveted pieces in his collection, Tanabe's landscapes are an incredible testament to British Columbia's coastal landscape. Amidst solemn hues, a viewer could get lost in the ripples of Tanabe's ocean, the obscurity of his horizon and the energy of his cloudscapes.

"[The vistas] allow for a rather extraordinary exploration within those grays," says Thom.

Tanabe himself perceives the hazy ambience of his coastal work as a commentary on the nature of life. "I favour the gray mists, the rain-obscured islands and the clouds that hide the details . . . . Life is ragged. The Coast is like that, just enough detail to make it interesting, but not so clear as to be banal or overwhelming," he said in 2001.

Thom is particularly fond of Tanabe's depiction of the Inside Passage, though he's quick to point out that the body of work in its entirety is important. Although Tanabe's popular success stems from his acclaimed work during the '80s and '90s, Thom insists that Tanabe has been at top of his field throughout his long career.

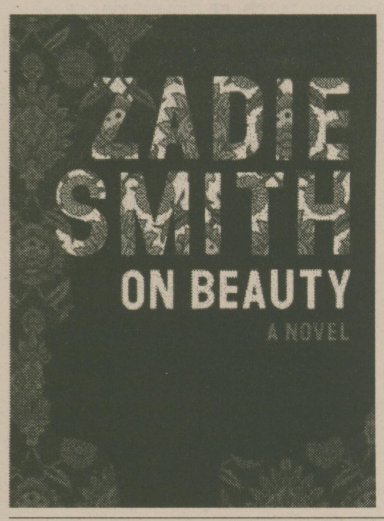
A notoriously private man, Takao Tanabe fits the archetype of the reclusive genius. An expert in the art of washes and an innovator of technique and medium, Tanabe is still hard at work at age 80. His panoramic canvases, up to 18 feet (about 5.5 metres) in length, are created horizontally on his worktable, using photographs to aid the personal memories of his native province.

The captivating exhibit is a collaborative effort between the AGGV and the Vancouver Art Gallery. After a showing in Vancouver in early 2006, the collection will head to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia before it wraps up in Kleinburg, Ont. in May 2007.

Tickets are $10 for students with valid identification. Guided tours begin at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Join Ian Thom for a curated tour on Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. or on Oct. 23 at 11 a.m.

BOOK | ON BEAUTY

Booker nominee finds magic in minutiae



On Beauty
By Zadie Smith
Penguin

by David Crow

Little happens in a Zadie Smith novel. There are no jolting cliffhangers or jaw-dropping plot twists, but that isn't where her strengths lie. Rather, Smith finds her groove in the vicissitudes of the everyday, the ordinary, and she turns more than a few beautiful phrases in the process.

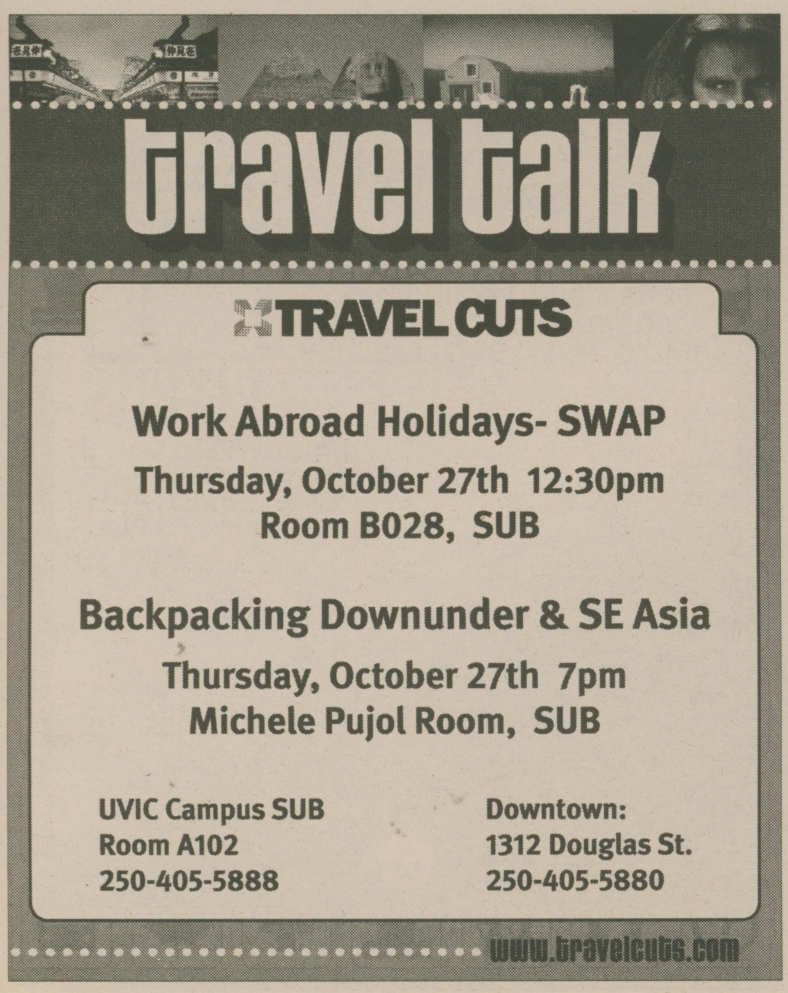
On Beauty should play to the appreciation of a university student, set as it is in a university town just outside of Boston. In this town, there are two feuding art history professors, just a few overly polite steps from each other's throats. Around them, the assorted elements of their lives—wives, coworkers, the usual bundle of children—constantly swirl, and are dragged relentlessly into the fray, with effects, of course, that the two professors don't always desire.

The apparently opposite wives, one a large, long-suffering African woman, the other a painfully proper English woman, become quick friends. Two of the children fall (at least briefly) in lust. Add to this the typical hodgepodge baggage of relationships, wandering eyes, terminal illness, identity crises, politics, music, and everything else, and the simmering feud can't help but bubble over.

There is love, betrayal, and loss, around all of which Smith weaves her treatise upon the definition and interpretation of beauty.

Sure, feuding art history professors don't normally lead to a page-turner, but Smith has an inestimable knack for turning the everyday into something sublime. She pens more than one sentence that makes you want to remember it—certainly the mark of a memorable novel.

Smith began her literary career with a bang. *White Teeth*, published in 2000, received several awards and plenty of critical acclaim on its path toward becoming a best seller. Unfortunately, her second novel, *The Autograph Man*, like so many sophomore efforts, fell short of expectations. *On Beauty* represents a vigorous return to form, one rewarded by a place on the Booker short list, surpassing such perennial favourites as Salman Rushdie and J.M. Coetzee.



SATCo a 'springboard' to Fringe Festival

Student-run company lets theatre majors take the wheel

by Michelle da Silva

It's not often students can experience live theatre. And even when you do manage to save up for that new play everyone has been seeing, just so you have something cool to say on Monday morning, there's no guarantee that the money will be well spent at the theatre.

Lucky for us, the Student Alternative Theatre Company (SATCo) gives us a reason to become audiences once again—and with admission set at a minimum donation of $3, it's a price even students can afford. SATCo is a student-run organization out of UVic's Phoenix Theatre. They put on student-written, student-acted and student-produced plays. The company is essentially open to anyone, but preference is given to theatre students.

On Oct. 13, the Barbara McIntyre theatre was packed for the second performance of *Composing Clara*. Written by third-year theatre major Deena Kinarthy and directed by students Martina Avis and Adam Teece, the play offers up a delicate portrayal of late composer and piano prodigy Clara Wieck's life. Kinarthy, who also plays the title role, saw a long-standing dream finally realized.

"I wanted to find out who gets left behind in history," says Kinarthy. The play started out as an assignment for Pheonix professor Jan Wood's first-year acting class. Students were asked to create a monologue for Wood's "Dead person acting project." Kinarthy, who has over 12 years of classical piano training under her belt, wanted to incorporate her love of music into her scene.

"The writing process I went through was at first by all the rules you learn in class about playwriting, and then my subconscious totally took over, and the characters took on a life of their own," explains Kinarthy when asked how a class assignment turned into a full-length play.

Kinarthy's play, like all plays produced by SATCo, was submitted to the company's selection board last April. Plays are chosen based on their length, their ability to play in the studio space, the size of the cast, and the experience it will give to everyone involved.

"They favour self-written pieces or pieces written by students," says Kinarthy. From there, a director, cast, and stage crew is assembled, and plays are rehearsed for no more than a month.

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Deena Kinarthy's *Composing Clara* in the McIntyre theatre.

SATCo usually produces six plays a season, and each show runs a mere three performances. But why would theatre students, who are encouraged to hone their talents mainly through main stage Phoenix productions, want to spend extra days and nights in SATCo rehearsals?

"It gives playwrights an opportunity to put on their own shows," says Ming Hudson, head of SATCo. "[It's] an opportunity to do productions you normally don't do. . . . Basically, it's a way to do what you want."

You might remember UVic theatre grad TJ Dawe. His one-man show *The Slip-knot* played at the Phoenix two years ago. Even after winning three awards at the Victoria Fringe Festival, Dawe credits SATCo for giving him his first one-man show experience as a student in 1997.

Kinarthy hopes to follow in Dawe's footsteps as she prepares to take *Composing Clara* to next year's Fringe. She sees SATCo as "a springboard for that goal," and does not see why "Broadway or off-Broadway couldn't be in the picture" for her future.

SATCo's next two plays are Mac Gordon's *Five Red Balloons* and Sebastian Archibald's *Dog Eat Man*. The first of the two will open Oct. 24. As SATCo does not have a website or their own box office, Hudson encourages audiences to simply call the Phoenix for any information.

"Without the student support network, we would be missing out on new, fresh, original theatre created by the future artists of the world," says Kinarthy. She hopes to see more non-theatre majors out at SATCo shows. "It's an unbeatable deal to see fresh, alternative theatre."

SATCo will be putting on plays througout the fall term.

Controller.Controller enters the forbidden Zone

Toronto bands play 'free' radio-controlled show at Lucky Bar

Who: Controller.Controller w/ Magneta Lane
When: Tuesday, Oct. 25
Where: Lucky Bar, 517 Yates St.
How Much: No tickets for you!

by Sarah Lawley-Wakelin

Toronto dance-rockers Controller.Controller will play a free show at Lucky Bar on Oct. 25 in support of their new album, *X-Amounts*.

There is a catch, however. To get into the show, you'll have to win tickets from the Zone radio station. Surprisingly, the "Zone show" seems to be more than a promotion for the station, although that obviously plays a part.

"We loved the band the first time we heard them," says James Sutton, the station's music director. "We were the first station to start playing them in Canada. We like up-and-coming but very interesting Canadian artists."

Because the Zone is broadcasted out of Victoria, Controller was heard all over the West Coast. Sutton explained that this gave the Zone a "sentimental" connection to the band, another reason they're hosting the show.

"As soon as we found out they were coming back this way, we jumped on it," he says. Not all Zone shows are by draw, said Sutton, since it's not cheap to rent an entire venue, but Controller is a special case.

Both Controller.Controller and tour mates Magneta Lane released debut EPs in 2004—*History* for Controller and *The Constant Lover* for Magneta Lane. X-Amounts is Controller's first full-length album, released on Oct. 11, and Magneta have just announced the completion of a new record, *Dancing With Daggers*, to be released in February.

Both groups are fronted by female vocalists. Magneta Lane's Lexi Valentine leads an all-girl trio, while Controller frontwoman Nirmala Basnayake jams with a quartet of guys. And while their styles differ, Controller and Magneta share an affinity for beat-driven dance-able punk.

If you love their sound, you might want to check out the show—but is there any way to actually purchase tickets?

"No. If you're a real fan, you'll listen for tickets," says Sutton.

Sutton dropped a hint for those who don't want to spend hours listening to the Zone's broad mix of modern rock.

"There are 200 tickets, [and] a lot of people won't pick up their tickets. You know how it is—people win stuff from radio stations just to win. If you stand by the front door, we usually have extras."

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Neatly folded pop-rock

Victoria's Paper Cranes on touring, recording and making it big (or not)

Who: The Paper Cranes
Where: The Garry Oak Room, 1335 Thurlow Rd.
When: Friday, Oct. 29
How Much: $8, $6 with a costume

by Sacha Narine

MARTY FYFE PHOTO

They've played with Wolf Parade and BA Johnston. Now the Cranes are heading into the studio.

Aim low and you'll always get what you want. Victoria rockers The Paper Cranes proved that theory last month by opening for one of the hottest bands in indie rock.

"In January, my dream—my entire dream—was to play Lucky Bar," says singer/songwriter Ryan McCullagh, 24, his wide eyes and quirky grin framed beneath a ruffle of blue-black hair.

"And then we did, with this great band [Wolf Parade]," adds bassist John Quissy, 22, a scruffy blonde who speaks softly, sparingly.

As the latest in a long line of unassuming rock heroes, Wolf Parade follow up The Arcade Fire and the ill-fated Hot Hot Heat as Canada's avant-garde musical revolutionaries. Opening for Wolf Parade on Sept. 23, the Cranes met a band deified in the press before they'd even released an album.

"Pretentious," scoffs Quissy. "Their bodyguards wouldn't let us near them," he laughs.

"No, no. They were really nice," says McCullagh. "We'd like to get to know them better, maybe play some ball hockey," he adds, only half-joking.

If the Cranes' wailing indie-rock sound or McCullagh's Morrissey-in-a-blender croon connote an icy sincerity, it's all an act. They take their music seriously, but everything else is worth a laugh.

"My 99-cent MP3 player just came in the mail," says drummer James Watson, 22, tall and thin, wearing drastically faded jeans. "Fuck all these kids with their iPods. I ordered it on eBay, from Japan. It holds half of one song."

For any group of close friends, fucking around becomes an art form. I ask if they see the band as their most important goal or if they have back-up plans.

"I'm actually studying to become a notary," says McCullagh, without a hint of sarcasm.

"Really?" I ask.

"No," says McCullagh, while John and James shake their heads.

Rounded out by Mark Vondrasek, 23, on lead guitar and Miranda Roach, 20, on keyboard, the band prides itself on a great live show.

"I hate it when bands can't play everything live, when they layer the vocals and add in extra keyboard that they can't do on stage," says Watson. "So it's good having Miranda."

It's especially convenient for McCullagh, who's engaged to the striking keyboardist.

Last Thursday, the group joined local favourites Chet and Away, Rio!, along with the inimitable BA Johnston (who sings about poutine, Nintendo, and pirate treasure), at Logan's Pub. After a rousing and hilarious performance by Hamilton, Ont. native Johnston, the Cranes took the stage for an energized, even theatrical, performance, with a stone-sober Quissy scaling the bass drum and McCullagh clapping a tambourine and stamping his foot like a pop-rock marching band.

McCullagh's warbling expressive voice stayed the course on the Cranes' soon-to-be single, "I'll Love You Until My Veins Explode," but veered off-track on the high notes of "Loose Lips Sink Ships." Yet, it's a rare vocalist who will even attempt the highest notes in his range on stage. McCullagh's efforts were formidable, Vondrasek's guitar sturdy and clean, and Watson's drums reliably crisp—even when the hi-hat toppled to the floor, Watson improvised.

Roach's keyboards wavered between necessity and impediment, requisite for some tracks and disruptive in others, like the thumping "Out on the Horse Track." The keys need refinement, but they remain integral to the Cranes' emotional depth.

Watson and Quissy, both students at UVic, characterized their performance as "sloppy, but fun."

"Victoria's a weird scene," says Watson. "People are tired of going to shows where all the bands sound the same. This show, it was, like, Chet has their own sound, BA Johnston *definitely* has his own . . . thing . . . and we have our own sound."

During their set, fans and friends of the band danced along to Watson's steady beat and Quissy's fluid bassline. The crowd cheered for an encore, and one fan marched up to the stage shouting, "You can't be done already. You're the best band here!"

An opinion, certainly, but the Cranes are building a fanbase distinct from their longtime supporters and friends. They were recently featured on the cover of Vancouver's *Terminal City* weekly under the headline "Catch them before they make it big."

How big, we'll have to wait and see, but the Cranes are set to record an EP with producer/engineer Howard Redekopp, whose resumé includes Tegan and Sara and The New Pornographers.The band played their first show in Vancouver on Oct. 7 at The Anza Club and will continue performing in Victoria, as well as heading up-Island from time to time.

"Other bands were telling us, 'Get used to the small-town bar scene,' because that's what we'll be doing for the first few tours," says Watson.

"I *grew up* on the small-town bar scene," says McCullagh.

"Honestly, I kind of like it," says Watson. "I kind of like that feeling."

But touring as an up-and-coming band isn't easy.

"We'll be learning about that," laughs Watson.

"We'll do another interview in a year, and we'll all be jaded and bitter and strung out."

BOOK | THE PENELOPIAD

The Penelopiad
By Margaret Atwood
Knopf Canada

by Bryna Hallam

"Usually by the time I get to Victoria I'm asleep," says Margaret Atwood, referring, one hopes, to the east-west direction of her book tours and not the liveliness of Victoria readings.

The CanLit icon was in town to kick off Canongate Book's international "The Myths Series," in which 24 international publishing houses and approximately a dozen writers worldwide retell traditional myths.

Atwood's contribution to the series is *The Penelopiad*, a retelling of *The Odyssey* from the point of view of Odysseus' wife, Penelope.

"Homer's Odyssey is not the only version of the story," says Atwood in the book's introduction. "Mythic material was originally oral, and also local—a myth would be told one way in one place and quite differently in another."

Her book is one of those places. It brings a modern twist to an old story and tells the tale of Penelope's 20 years on her own, when she managed to hold back suitors, shrug off rumours and bring up an increasingly difficult teenaged son.

Atwood is quick to point out that myths, and their meanings, change with the times.

"The meaning of a myth is probably not as universal as we once thought," she says. "We know what we can make of these myths; we don't know what they meant to ancient Greeks."

Playing a supporting role in the tale is Penelope's cousin Helen, of Trojan War fame. "This period in Greek history is a little like an episode of *Dallas*," says Atwood. "Everybody seems to be related to everybody else—and stabbing them in the back."

Like any respectable Greek tale, the book has a chorus—12 hanged maids who were killed by Odysseus when he returned. "I've always been haunted by the hanged maids," says Atwood, "and, in *The Penelopiad*, so is Penelope herself."

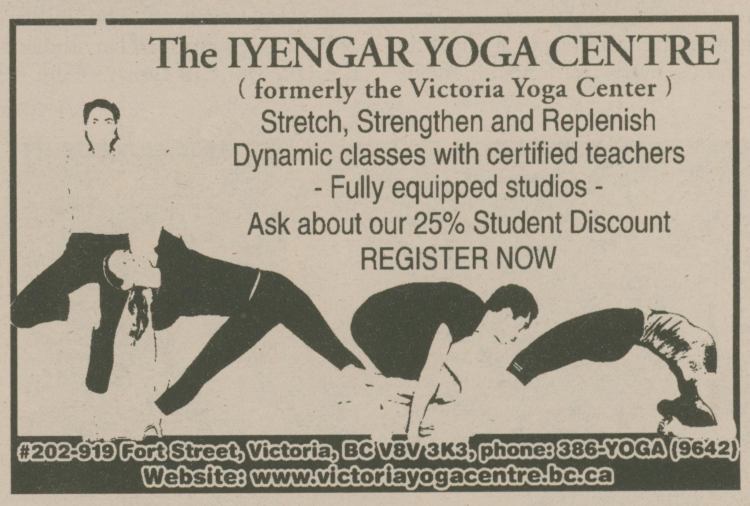
Although Atwood has long been acquainted with the myth—she first read *The Odyssey* at age 15— it isn't her favourite. "I'm very bad at favourites. I'm fickle," she says.

It also wasn't her first choice for the series. There were attempts at two other stories before she got to work on *The Penelopiad*.

"That is a sad topic," she says of the earlier efforts. "I don't think I should mention them in case someone else wants to do them."

The Penelopiad offers up a range of literary treats—the maids use jump-rope rhymes, an anthropology lecture and a sea shanty, among other forms, to speak to the reader. And for those who prefer Atwood's poetry to her prose, the book offers up a little of that too, courtesy of the maids.

Rewriting stories from a different point of view is "not a new thing," says Atwood. "It's an interesting thing to do," though not always successful. *The Penelopiad* is both.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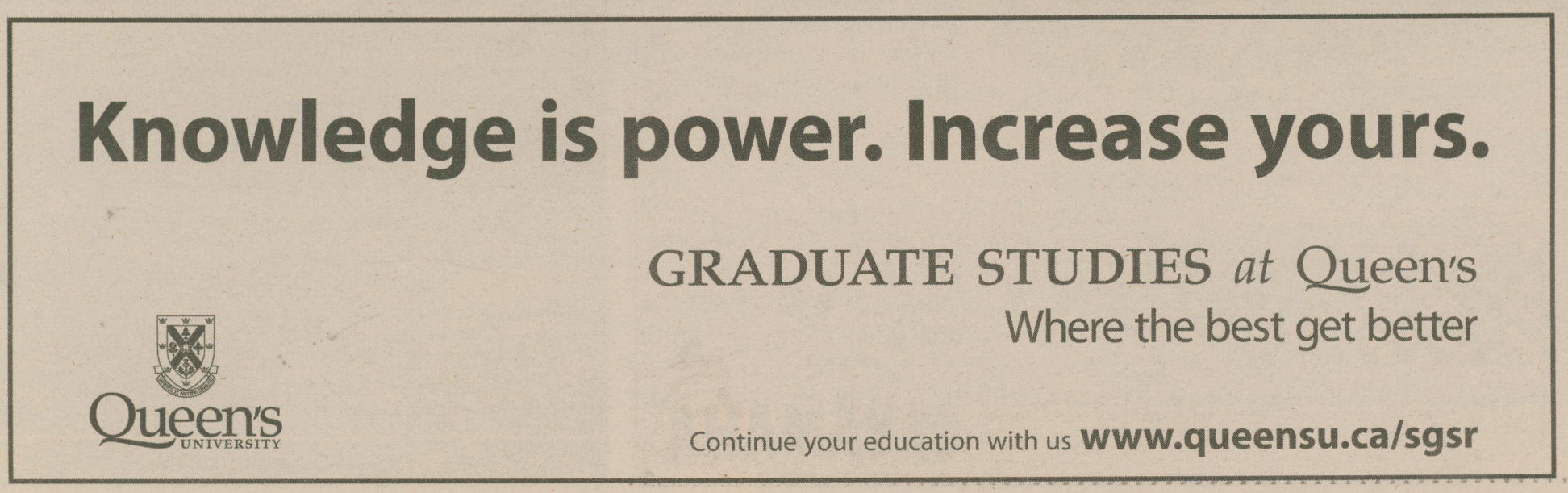
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Diwali lights up Victoria

Indian festival celebrates cultural unity and a 'renewal of life'

What: Diwali 2005
Where: University Centre Auditorium
When: Saturday, Oct. 22 @ 7 p.m.
How Much: $10

by Rachel Zimmerman

CHETAN SONDAGAR PHOTO

The Victoria Hindu Temple hosts Diwali 2005 on Oct.22.

In India, Diwali, or the "Festival of Lights," is celebrated on a grand scale in almost all regions of the country, for three to five days a year.

It's also celebrated here in Victoria, although on a somewhat smaller scale.

The Victoria Hindu Temple will be hosting Diwali 2005, "to increase cultural awareness in the younger Indian generation raised in Canada as well as in the Canadian community at large," says Dr. Ashok Agarwal, a research physicist at the University of Victoria who has organized the event for the past eight years.

"Diwali signifies many different things to people across India," says Prasad Chintalapati, one of the organizers of this year's celebration. "In some parts of India, it is celebrated as New Year. In other parts it marks the end of the fiscal year, and in others still it is celebrated as a kind of Thanksgiving around harvest time."

Many also celebrate Diwali as the return of Lord Rama after 14 years in exile, a time in which he killed the destructive Ravana, who abducted Lord Rama's wife.

"Because of his wisdom, Rama removed the darkness and, since he won over Ravana, he created a light all around India," says Agarwal.

As well, Diwali signifies the renewal of life—homes are decorated with lights and small oil lamps known as diyas; gifts and sweets are exchanged; new clothes are worn; and fireworks are set off.

Agarwal explains that Diwali is similar in popularity and even in style to Christmas in North America.

Victoria's Diwali celebration features a colourful three-hour Indian musical and dance show with a wide variety of performances by a total of about 120 dancers, singers and musicians. One of the main attractions includes performers from Vancouver's Young Stars Dancing School, known for their lively, Bollywood-style performances.

"I like everything, from the samosas to the performances," says Chintalapati. "But my personal favourites are the classical dances with their intricate facial and hand expressions."

Among the performances will be classical Indian Punjabi Bhangra dances by the UBC Girls Bhangra Team, which performs internationally and has received numerous awards.

Agarwal explains that Punjabi Bhangra is a particularly joyous type of dance from the Punjab region in India. "This dance is always done at the harvest season in March or April," he says. "People are so happy, they start dancing in the fields because of the harvest. Since they are very happy, they are full of energy."

A number of other dancers, including students from Sidney Sparling's Kala Mandir School in Victoria, will be participating in this event.

This year's event is expected to attract more than 700 people. A variety of Indian foods will be sold as refreshments during intermission. Proceeds will be used to improve the Victoria Hindu Temple and its educational programs.

Tickets for the event are available through the UVic ticket centre at 721-8480 or online at www.auditorium.uvic.ca, at Island Video (475-1212), from Usha Agarwal (384-1521), Gurudutt Jhagra (472-2512), or Arvind Sund (1-888-855-3133, up-Island), as well as at the door.

Virtuoso violinist joins Symphony veteran for a night of eclectic music

Who: Victoria Symphony, with Karen Gomyo and Kees Bakels
Where: Royal Theatre, 805 Broughton St.
When: Saturday, Oct. 22 and Monday, Oct. 24 @ 8 p.m.
How Much: $24 and up

by Micah Luxen

When Karen Gomyo performed with the New York Philharmonic, the New York Times wrote that she "produced a rich, throaty sound and shaped her phrases with a clear sense of the assertive romantic performance style that had prevailed when this work was new."

Gomyo, one of Canada's most distinguished violinists, performs Lalo's "Symphonie Espagnole" in Victoria this weekend, in a night of Spanish rhythm enlivened by inspirational talent.

In fact, Gomyo herself describes the music's style as a mixture of fire, passion, dance, happiness and song. Lalo's piece is comprised of five movements, which progress from fiery and charming, to a climactic darkness in the third movement, after which it proceeds to tearful lamentation followed by a musical expression of happiness.

"People have described this work as being flashy, and some definitely strive to play it as fast or as dramatic as possible. A favourite violinist of mine, from a generation before I was born, has got so much colour in his playing, and when he plays this piece, he definitely isn't the fastest or the most clean player, but it's absolutely beautiful. He makes the piece really just full of smiles and characters."

Gomyo herself has performed internationally, all the way from the Tokyo, where she was born, to the Louvre in Paris, to Montreal, where she grew up. "When I started the violin, it was because I loved music and had just heard the violinist Midori. It was just a little girl kind of thing, like, 'Mommy, Mommy, I want to do what she's doing!' I knew I wanted to be a soloist and travel the world."

In recent years, Gomyo received a full scholarship to The Juilliard School and continued her studies at the University of Indiana. She will now begin her work as part of the studio of Donald Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory of Music.

"I don't know how I could ever be tired of it," says Gomyo. "It's really who I am at this point. You want to try to find your own voice, and when you think you do . . . it's exciting, and you want to keep going so hard that work comes naturally."

Gomyo says that it's her love for the violin that got her where she is. "Otherwise, you can practice all day, but if you're not doing it because it comes from your heart, there's a limit to where you can go."

In addition to Gomyo's performance of Lalo, the night will feature Kees Bakels, former music director at the Victoria Symphony, conducting music from Douglas Schmidt and Tchaikovsky.

"Student Rush" members are entitled to two tickets to each performance for $9.75 each. Tickets are available by calling the Victoria Symphony Box Office (385-6515) or at any Royal McPherson Theatre Outlet (386-6121)

PROVIDED PHOTO

Violinist Karen Gomyo won a full scholarship to Juilliard.

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CD | SUICIDE GIRLS COMPILATION

Various Artists
Black Heart Retrospective
Suicide Girls

Epitaph is promoting the Suicide Girls *Black Heart Retrospective* compilation as "the ultimate Halloween dance party!" If a CD could be a dance party, *Black Heart Retrospective* would be a warehouse affair with a black mesh and pleather dress code—and the DJ would be pretty good.

Black Heart Retrospective is a collection of industrial dance staples that span three decades and several flavours of goth. NIN's angsty "The Wretched," a Sisters of Mercy cover by emo-lite popsters Alkaline Trio, and a new backpacker hip-hop track by Atmosphere are united by the fact that they're all as dark as a Suicide Girl's nail polish.

Some of the tracks are straight from the albums they were originally released on, like Echo and the Bunnymen's "With a Hip" and The Cure's "One Hundred Years," while others have been produced for other compilations, like Joy Division's reverb-laden "She's Lost Control" and The Cult's "She Sells Sanctuary."

The two songs that *aren't* from the '80s stand out. Unlike the other 12 "classic goth club hits," NIN's "The Wretched" isn't a dance song—it's a song to brood, mosh or vandalize something to.

The only new song, Atmosphere's "Don't Know How Much," is also the only hip-hop song. It's not a bad closer to the album, but it does feel a little incongruous—like the end of a concert, when the house lights and music come back on, signaling the crowd to buy a drink or go home because the band they came to hear isn't coming back for another encore.

Black Heart Retrospective serves as a great introduction to the gothic/industrial sound, but it doesn't have a lot of offer someone who's already familiar with the genre.

-Jessica Smith

CD | DANGER DOOM

Danger Doom
The Mouse and the Mask
Epitaph

Quite possibly the strangest hip-hop release of the year, *The Mouse and the Mask* appears to have a very small target audience.

It is really good hip-hop, but it's also incredibly geeky. But what else would you expect from Danger Doom, a new collaboration of MF Doom and DJ Danger Mouse, named for a Marvel Comics supervillain and a cartoon rodent superhero, respectively.

The special guests on the album only increase the geekiness. As well as understandable appearances from Talib Kweli and Ghostface, nearly every track features clips from the Cartoon Network's "Adult Swim" collection of programs. Characters from Sealab 2021, Aqua Teen Hunger Force, Harvey Birdman, Space Ghost and the Brak Show all pop up, adding their own insanity to an already crazy album.

MF Doom is known for his creative rhymes, and this disc is no exception. His deep, gravelly delivery plays perfectly off the upbeat music. Gorillaz producer Danger Mouse, perhaps best known for his unauthorized (read: illegal) bootleg work *The Grey Album* (a mash-up remix of The Beatles' White Album and Jay-Z's Black Album), is in top form, and displays his undeniable prowess at using eclectic samples to create original hip-hop beats.

Clocking in at under 40 minutes, *The Mouse and the Mask* runs a bit short, which is unfortunate. The album has been in the works for a long time, and the quality shows, but it leaves you wanting more.

Bringing together these two talented artists and their love of bizarre cartoons makes for a strangely unified whole, albeit a whole with a narrow target audience—ideally someone who likes both hip-hop and adult-oriented cartoons.

But even if you aren't in that demographic, *The Mouse and the Mask* is a marvelously unique and entertaining album.

-Graham Stark

CD | METRIC

Metric
Live It Out
Last Gang

Metric's second full-length album, *Live It Out*, moves away from the new wave power pop of 2003's *Old World Underground, Where Are You Now?* and takes their sound in a harder direction, closer to the live act.

It works.

Vocalist and keyboard player Emily Haines still draws the listener in with her sultry voice, sustained bursts of electric piano, and little-kid-on-big-issues lyrical tone. Jimmy Shaw, Joshua Winstead and Joules Scott Key provide a slick rock backing that complements Haines' detached, sometimes-sung sometimes-spoken vocals.

For fans who worried that the harder sound would remove the political pulse, paranoia, sensuality and wit that ran through *Old World*, fear not: all the anxiety, insecurity and ambiguous meanings are in *Live It Out*. An eerie electric piano hook leads the listener into "The Police and the Private," supporting a head bobbing beat that's tough not to dance to.

The current single, "Monster Hospital," contains trace elements of Haines' undulating live vocal style, a catchy chorus, and some Sonic Youth squeal from guitarist Shaw.

Those looking for a repeat of *Old World* may be disappointed by this album, preferring the softer sound of the 2001 release, the *Static Anonymity* EP, available only by mix tape or download. For new or old fans of Metric's live sound, *Live It Out* will become a fast favourite. It's a gem that'll make you wish Metric albums could last forever, instead of just 40 minutes.

-Steve Carey

CD | CRITERIA

Criteria
When We Break
Saddle Creek Records

Criteria lead singer Stephen Pederson doesn't exactly have a golden touch.

His first band fell apart after two albums. His second band fell apart when he decided to go to law school at Duke University. Criteria's second album, *When We Break*, fell apart when I realized I was half way through the second song and hadn't noticed the track change.

When We Break is an incredibly bland album. From the uninspired drumming that kicks it off to the cliché keyboard wrap-up, Criteria has shaped an unoriginal experience. Lead guitarist Aaron Druery doesn't do anything with his instrument worth commenting on, and the man behind the sticks, Mike Sweeney, is probably the most unimaginative drummer I've had the displeasure of hearing.

The lyrics are thoughtful, but they get far too heady for the emotional, raw music Criteria is aiming for. Some of the words Pederson throws down on tracks like "Prevent the World" or "Draped in the Blood" are polysyllabic monstrosities only a trained corporate lawyer (read: Pederson) would include on a punk album.

When We Break lacks not only creativity, but also edge. It chokes when the time comes to step up and deliver something memorable. The riffs aren't "face searing," as the album jacket claims, just shamelessly recycled, and although I'll agree with the marketers that the melodies are contagious, they're hardly something you'd want to catch.

-Clarke Ries

CD | THE ROLLING STONES

The Rolling Stones
A Bigger Bang
EMI

The Rolling Stones are old. They made great albums in the '60s and '70s and then sucked their way through the latter part of the century.

Now, at a combined age of 245 years, they seem to have remembered how to make decent rock and roll. Their 24th album, *A Bigger Bang*, finds the Stones back where they started: making solid blues-rock.

The album's production is polished, but it doesn't take away from the new songs, which highlight the interplay between Mick, Keith, and Charlie in a way that a Stones record hasn't in years. The Stones don't seem to be looking for a hit on this record (though they might get one in "Sweet Neo Con"), and the fact that the album sounds so undeliberate is exactly what makes it work as well as it does.

While you're not going to find anything as mind-blowing as "Gimme Shelter" or "Sympathy For The Devil" on the new record, chances are you're also not going to laugh during every track and resolve to re-shrink-wrap the CD and give it to your uncle for Christmas. That said, if you're new to the Stones, just go buy *Exile On Main Street* and *Let It Bleed*, because, like many other "old" bands, the Stones will simply never match the brilliance of their career peak.

A Bigger Bang should make an excellent stocking-stuffer for baby-boomer parents because, let's face it, it's cheaper than trying to get them a Stones ticket.

-Jamison Prystay

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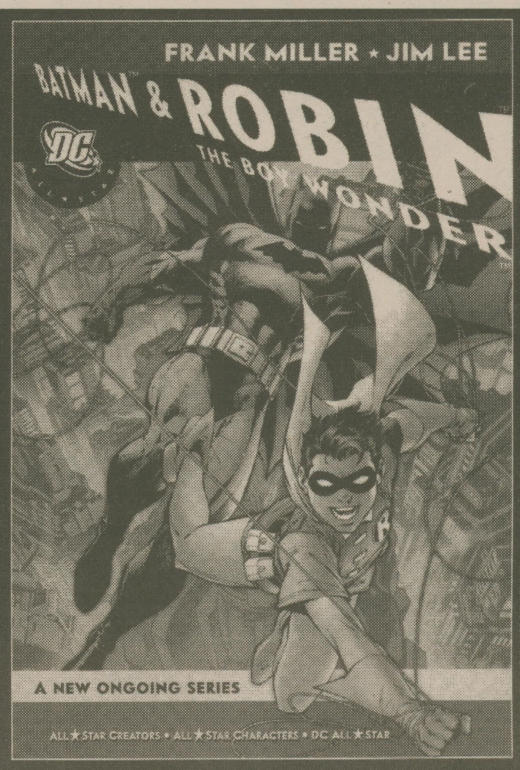
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Setting the pace for first place

M-Vikes cross-country finish first overall, W-Vikes second

by Matthew Gauk

WILLIE LEE PHOTO

Sean Mangan (left) and Geoff Homer compete for the Vikes at the New Balance Invitational Oct. 15 at Beacon Hill Park.

Unusually warm weekend weather wasn't enough to stop the men's and women's Vikes cross-country teams from taking first and second, respectively, in the New Balance Invitational at Beacon Hill Park Oct. 15.

The men's team won the overall team category with 35 points, beating second-place University of Alberta by five points, and third-place SFU by nine.

UVic's Kris Swanson placed seventh overall and second in the university men's category for a time of 25:54. Vikes' Logan Burke claimed fifth in the university category with 26:08, Geoff Martinson ran 26:18 for seventh place, and Daniel Mallie finished in 26:18 for eighth place.

Canadian Olympian Simon Whitfield recorded the fastest time of the day, completing the eight-kilometre course in a time of 25:32.

The men's team is learning as it goes, said head coach Brent Fougner.

He said the team is constantly improving and is hitting their stride at just the right time for the approaching Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships.

"We're close with (the University of) Alberta. It's going to be a battle with them."

The B.C. cross-country championships kick off Oct. 22 in White Rock, and the Canadian Interuniversity Sport race happens Nov. 12 in Halifax.

In the women's division, SFU cleaned up and took the top three spots of the university category. The top-placing SFU runner came in five seconds after the overall winner, Caroline Murray, who ran the six-kilometre course in 18:01.

The Vikes finished second overall; UVic's Tiffany Evans finished fifth overall and came in fourth in the university category with 18:30, four seconds after the third SFU competitor. Adrienne Attorp placed seventh with 18:56, and Christina Heisterman and Leah Burley came in ninth and tenth with 19:04 and 19:16, respectively.

"It was expected," said Fougner. "The women ran great. They ran really smart and put it together where it counted."

The unseasonable warmth took a heavy toll on some runners, added Fougner.

"Sometimes it's hard to race with friends and family watching, when it's eight kilometres in the heat. But it's better than traveling."

A Wise way to the western championships

MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

Vikes field hockey top goal-scorer Natalie Wise (left) puts pressure on a UBC defender Oct. 15 at the third and final Canada West Tournament of the season. UVic lost to UBC 1–0 but finished third in the overall standings with three wins, three ties and three losses. The Vikes will now advance to the CIS Canada West Championships Oct. 22–24 in Vancouver.

VIKES ScoreBoard

Women's Soccer

Vikes 7–Cougars 0

Amelie Mercier's first-half hat trick led the Vikes to an impressive win over the University of Regina Cougars. Mercier (3), **Carey Gustafson**, **Liz Hansen**, **Cheryl Bjorgan**, **Moira Hood** scored. Goaltender Katarzyna Gwiazda shut out the Cougars.

Vikes 5–Bisons 0

Katarzyna Gwiazda stopped six University of Manitoba shots to record her fifth shutout of the season. **Amy Thorogood**, **Mariel Solsberg**, **Liz Hansen**, **Moira Hood**, **Rachael Lovink** scored.

Record: 7–4–0

Men's soccer

Vikes 1–T-Birds 2

The Vikes fell in a close contest to the number-one ranked CIS team, the UBC Thunderbirds. UBC marked the first goal of the game, which came minutes before half time after back-and-forth play. One minute into the second 45, **Kyle Langseth** drew a penalty near the UBC goal. Langseth took the kick and passed to **Kyle Finner** who drove the ball into the net. UBC scored the go-ahead goal in the 84th minute.

Record: 2–5–1

Women's Rugby

Vikes 42–Ravens 12

A strong offensive line assured the Vikes a victory over the UBC Ravens. The CIS Canada West Tournament begins Oct. 21 in Vancouver and assistant coach Bruce Howe said the win will help boost the team.

Jessica Dovanne, **Amanda Campbell**, **Jenna Waddy**, **Selina McGinnis**, **Amy Cheung** scored.

Men's Golf

The Vikes defeated their two opponents at the SFU, UBC, UVic tri-match at Point Roberts Golf Course. **Terry Ishizaki** (73), **Chris Fuller** (74), **Shelby Dreher** (75) and **Mike Leon** (80) shot a combined 302 to defeat SFU (310) and UBC (319).

Women's Golf

At the SFU, UBC, UVic tri-match, the women's flight was a game of extremes. The Vikes claimed second place with an overall score of 405. UBC ran away for the win with a score of 336 and SFU fell 107 shots behind the leaders with a score of 443.

Krystle Kay (87), **Julia Bobak** (100), **Ashley Roulston** (106) and **Leanne Laverick** (112) scored.

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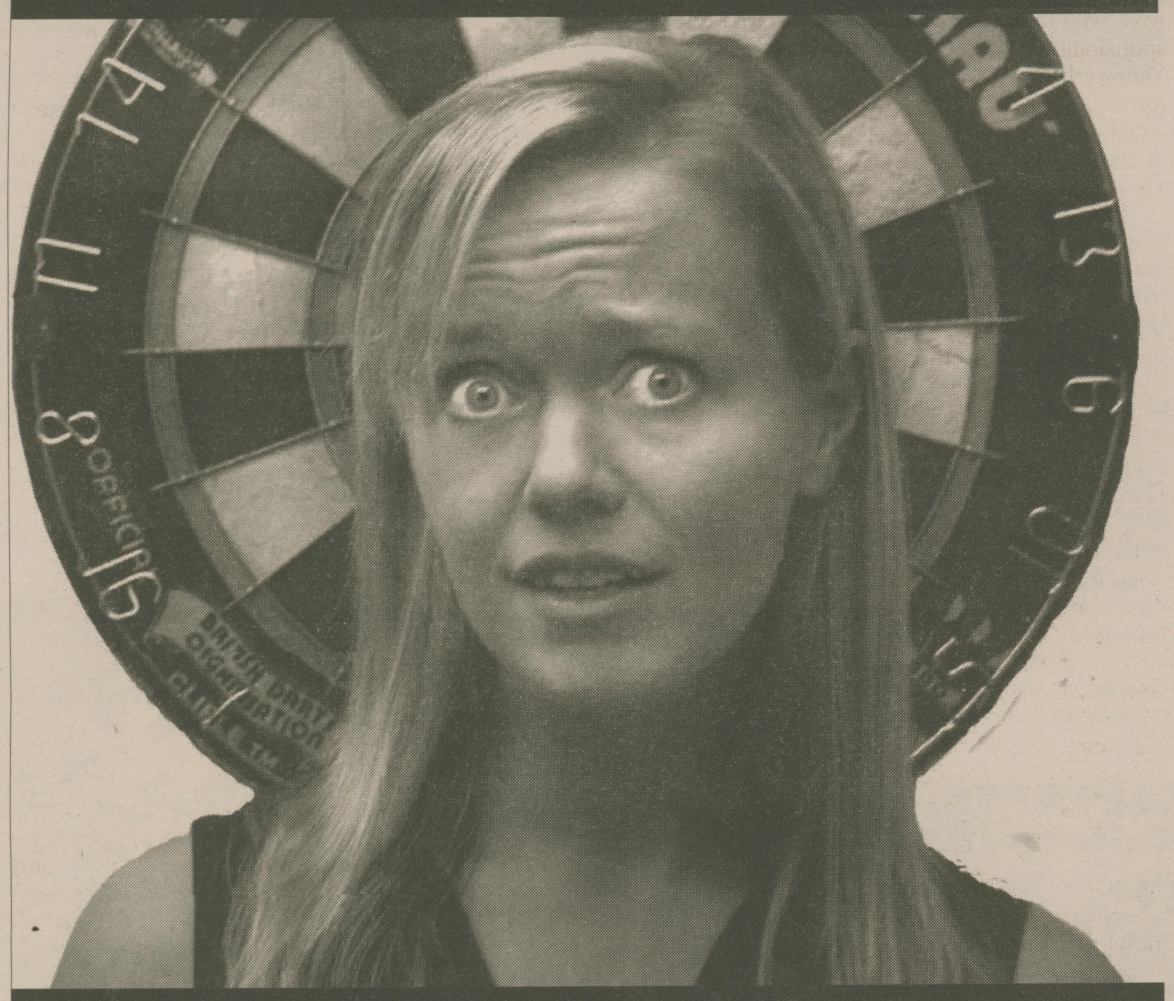

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Stephanie Dixon, you are a sensation

Vikes swimmer values strong leadership and good coaching over pile of golden hardware

by Anna Czolpinski

Stephanie Dixon took swimming lessons from the age of two, as well as diving, baseball and gymnastics classes. But she always returned to the pool and continually found herself in the water.

"[It's] as if I should have been a mermaid but was somehow put on land by accident," she said. For unknown reasons, Dixon was born without a right leg and hip.

In spite of her disability, Dixon, a third-year psychology student and two-time Vikes Athlete of the Year, attends the punishing workouts and training sessions expected of all Vikes swimmers.

Her hard work has paid off: Dixon set three world records and brought home five gold and two silver medals from the 2000 Paralympics Games in Sydney, Australia.

Four years later in Athens, when the level of competition across all sports rose to an extremely elite level, Dixon set yet another world record in the 100-metre backstroke and accumulated eight medals.

"Stephanie has been extremely courageous in coming as far as she has," said Ron Jacks, Pacific Coast Swimming head coach and three-time Olympian. "She asks a lot of herself."

Her daily routine begins at 4:45 a.m. when she rises for a two-hour swim practice. A second workout follows in the evening after a full day of class. Her lifestyle involves "always fighting the natural urges in you that say, 'Pain! Stop now!' Yet, it's also knowing which types of pain are bad," she said, "because it's not natural what we do.

"If your passion is not there, it's hard to stick to something that is so grueling. Each day [you have] to convince yourself that you can do better, always living in a state of pushing yourself."

Originally from Brampton, Ont., Dixon enrolled at UVic because of the swim team's leadership and reputation for running a basic but challenging program. Her current coaches, Jacks and Vikes head coach Peter Vizsolyi, recognize her as a good athlete, rather than a good athlete with a disability. Instead of constant praise, they focus on enhancing her performance and pushing her to the next level.

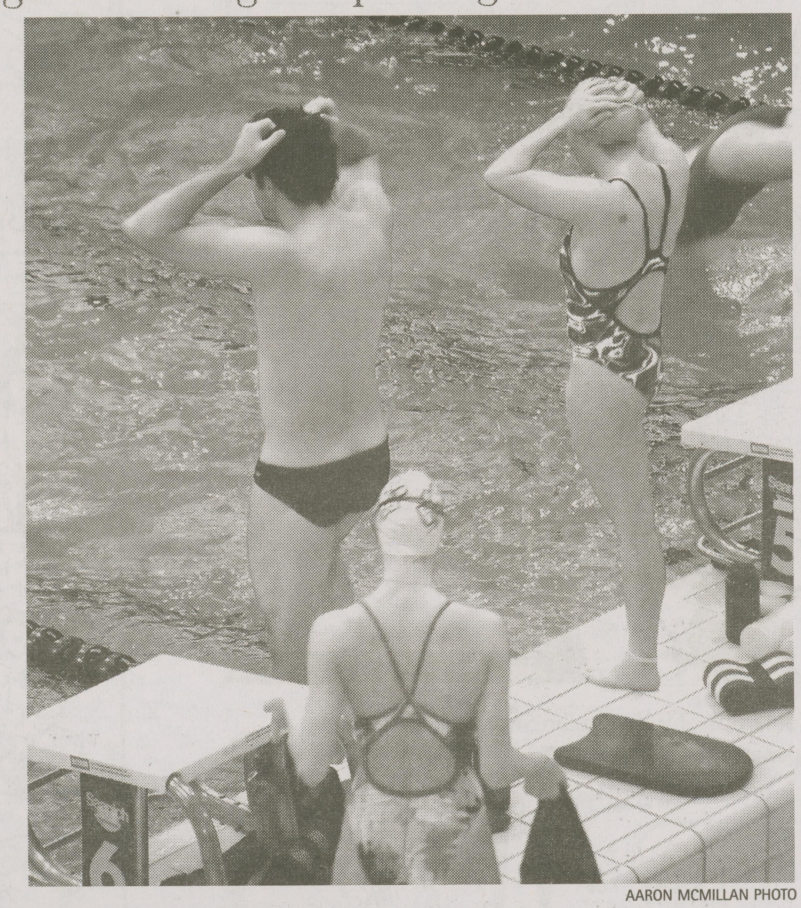
"As opposed to taking on smaller goals that are safe and guaranteed, [my coaches] are not afraid to take on a challenge, sometimes shooting for more than is even possible," said Dixon. It was their confidence in her that convinced Dixon that she had found a good home in Victoria.

In addition to her accomplishments at multiple Paralympic games, Dixon returned from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) world swimming championships in New Zealand (1998) and Argentina (2002) with numerous medals. During that time Dixon also competed against able-bodied swimmers at provincial and junior national competitions in Canada.

Of her many accomplishments and recognitions—including the title of B.C. female Swimmer With A Disability (SWAD) which came Oct. 1—Dixon is most proud of two. The first is being named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Sport by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity.

The second is placing 16th in last year's Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships and earning points for her team while competing against able-bodied swimmers.

"I was so proud to be representing the University of Victoria," she said. But Dixon hasn't been alone in her many successes. Her two coaches, the leaders that helped draw her to Victoria, impact her immensely and she is ready with praise for both.



AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

A two-time UVic Athlete of the Year, Stephanie Dixon (right) prepares for a Vikes swim practice.

Vizsolyi believes that the art of coaching involves gauging an athlete's commitment to the sport against her ability to take care of herself away from the swimming pool.

According to Jacks, named SWAD coach of the year for his work with Dixon, a coach's main responsibility is to act as a mentor. Young athletes such as Dixon face a number of new, challenging experiences, he said, and without the help of an experienced guide, mistakes can be easy to make. He also advises young athletes to understand their weaknesses as much as they focus on their strengths.

"People are very interested in doing things they are good at, not so much in the things they are not [good at]," said Jacks. "Maximizing performance means upgrading on weaknesses as much as focusing on strengths, he explained.

So far in her university life, Dixon's greatest challenge has been balance. In addition to school and swimming, she volunteers at a children's hospital and at a nature sanctuary. At times she packed in so much that she was known as The Snowball. Like a ball of snow rolling down a hill, her responsibilities started small but grew larger over time, soon becoming out of control. Vizsolyi said Dixon tries to get as much out of life as she can, but is starting to recognize that too many projects can impede her goals.

Vizsolyi, also a family and sports physician, intimately understands the balancing act.

"People often take shortcuts that are actually longcuts," he said. Missing class is shortsighted, for example, and athletes who leave sport to focus exclusively on school do not necessarily get better marks. Rather, they expand into other activities, which are not necessarily productive.

In terms of competition as a driving force, Dixon says her biggest battle is against herself. She has learned that the drive for success—even for perfection—must come from within. She provides an analogy: Say there is an Olympic swimmer who has just won the gold medal.

She is happy for the win, yet if she knows she could have gone faster she will nonetheless feel a bit let down.

Not caught up in formal recognition and golden hardware, Dixon reflects on her career to date and remembers snorkeling in Australia's Great Barrier Reef with teammates and being stopped by the Turkish coast guard while swimming from the Grecian island of Kos to mainland Turkey. It's less about the achievements, more about the experience she gets from swimming and the confidence she gains from her coaches' absolute belief in her ability as an athlete.

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Volunteers of all ages are needed to assist individuals with disabilities to get out and be active. By donating only 1-2 hours a week you have the opprotunity to participate in an activity you enjoy while giving back to your community! To get involved or for more information, please call Bryanna at 477-6314 or visit: www.rivonline.org/RIVSite.htm

The BC Cancer Agency - Vancouver Island Centre is currently recruiting volunteers for Patient Support positions and for their busy TeaLC Café. Shifts are 3 and 4 hour, once a week. If you are interested in volunteering in this rewarding environment and are available to help out during a weekday, please contact Volunteer Services at 519-5500 ext 3747.

ON CAMPUS

WE WANT YOUR BODY
for an aerial art image. To oppose oil and gas drilling, off B.C.'s coast. Nov. 2 at 11:30 a.m .meeet at fountain. There will be food, music, and speakers. For more info e-mail the UVic Wilderness Club.
uvicwilderness@yahoo.ca.

Electronic Arts is recruiting Engineering and Computer Science students. To find out more, attend their information session on campus: Thursday, October 27th in Harry Hickman room 110 from 5pm - 7pm. For more information www.careerservices.uvic.ca/infosessions.html

AustraLearn provides students with study abroad opportunities in Australia and New Zealand. If you would like to learn more about their study and internship opportunities, be sure to attend their information session on campus: Thursday, October 27th in Clearihue C108 at 4:30pm. For more information visit www.careerservices.uvic.ca/infosessions.html

Free—Bike Maintenance 'How-To' Workshop
Thursday, October 20—1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. — Cornett Building, Room B108. No technical skills needed; no need to bring your bike. A how-to session where you'll learn the skills needed to keep your bike working well. Adjust brakes and shifters, repair flats, etc.

Free—Cycling Traffic Safety & Ease Workshop. Thursday, October 27
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. — Harry Hickman Building, Room 110
Learn how to handle yourself and your bike safely and comfortably in traffic. Practical and readily-applied traffic theory, teaching where to ride on the road, and why. web.uvic.ca/uvbikes/

VICTORIA HINDU TEMPLE
Presents an exciting cultural, musical, dance evening with UBC girls Bhangra Team and young stars from Vancouver Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at University Centre Auditorium, UVic, Victoria. Tickets are $10 and available at 384-1521 and also at the door.

NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP
Hans Roemer will present "Native Alpine Flowers of Vancouver Island" Oct 20, 7 p.m. UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-116. Non member drop-in fee: $2. For more info contact 595-5820.

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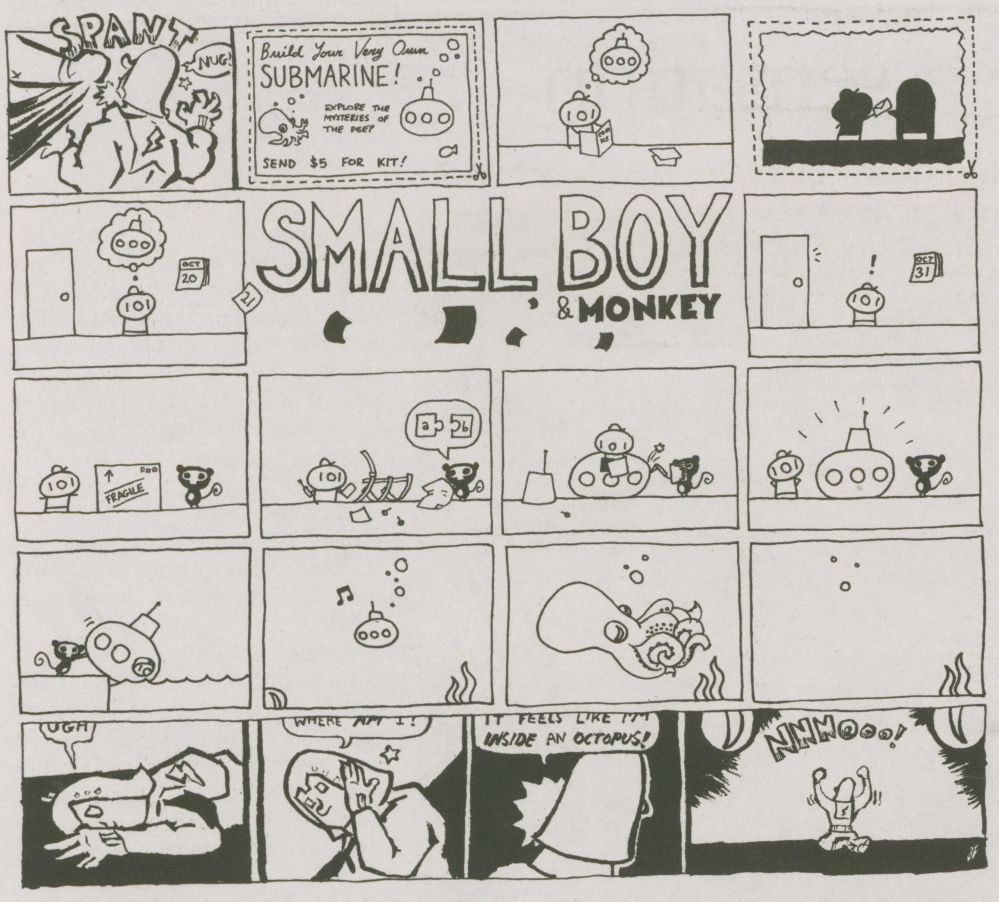
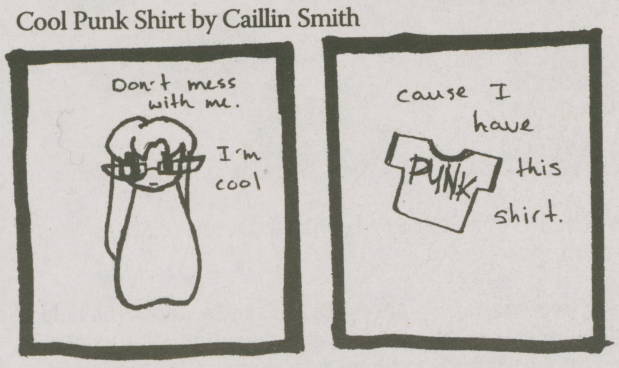
HEY YOU!

Smarter than I give credit for.
I'm scared shitless of inadequacy resulting in failure to live up to my father, who quietly resents me for choosing a path that he abandonned. He's proud but envious. I've started to realize that the more he dismisses my art work, the closer I am to success. This is my self realization. I'm brave, unique, and independant. I'll marry a man like him.



Cool Punk Shirt by Caillin Smith



the adventures of...
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NOAM CHOMSKY
By Jeffrey Weston
Ding Dong
Hello! I just bought the house next door and I thought I should meet my neighbors.
Who's there, Predicate?
NYTIMES
Noam Chomsky!?
Christopher Hitchens!?
Boy, this is awkward.
Well, if we're going to be neighbors, we'd better make amends.
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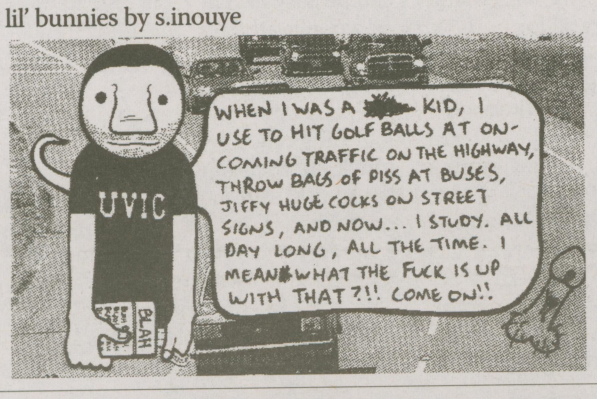
Remember that time I said you had "racist contempt" for the victims of that Sudanese "chemical" plant bombing? Well, I'm sorry.
Hey, thanks. Remember when I called you 'soft on fascism'?
Yeah?
Well, I still mean it.
Join us next time for another episode of...
MISTER CHOMSKY'S NEIGHBORHOOD

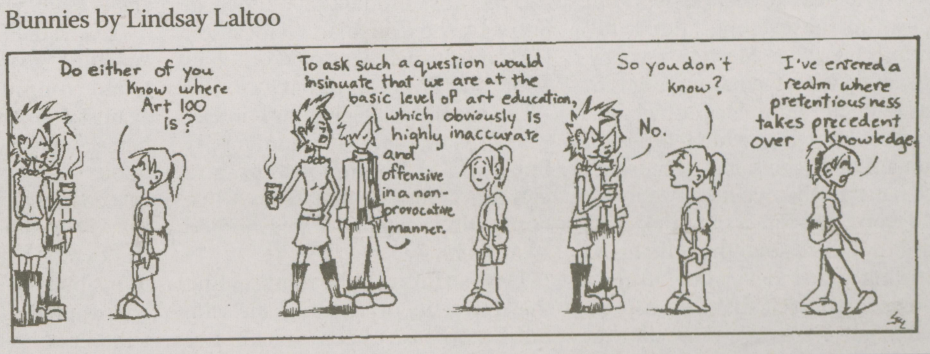
LADY & BIBLE BY NORMAN ED BASKERVILLE

...Yeah, but eating the body of Christ just sounds dirty. Ya know.
...Hmmm...I was a Hustler magazine before my paper was recycled. I miss being pro-sodomy.

lil' bunnies by s.inouye


UVIC
BLAH
WHEN I WAS A [redacted] KID, I USE TO HIT GOLF BALLS AT ON-COMING TRAFFIC ON THE HIGHWAY, THROW BAGS OF PISS AT BUSES, JIFFY HUGE COCKS ON STREET SIGNS, AND NOW... I STUDY. ALL DAY LONG, ALL THE TIME. I MEAN WHAT THE FUCK IS UP WITH THAT?!! COME ON!!

Bunnies by Lindsay Laltoo


Do either of you know where Art 100 is?
To ask such a question would insinuate that we are at the basic level of art education, which obviously is highly inaccurate and offensive in a non-provocative manner.
So you don't know?
No.
I've entered a realm where pretentiousness takes precedent over knowledge.

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